

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 138

SATURDAY MAY 17, 2008

www.saipantribune.com 50¢



OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support the
proposal to create a
Marine Monument in
the northern islands?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Iraq Victory by 2013

Republican John McCain declared for the first time Thursday he believes the Iraq war can be won by 2013, although he rejected suggestions that his talk of a timetable put him on the same side as Democrats clamoring for full-scale troop withdrawals.

Nation...Page 10



Wage Increase

Jumping the gun on the wage board in Metro Manila, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo excitedly announced Friday before employers that the tripartite body had approved a P20 increase in the daily minimum wage of private workers, or P600 per month, to allow them to cope with soaring fuel and food prices.

Maharlika...Page 12

Kaipat: New procedures in place to identify overstaying aliens. **PAGE 2**
'NMI's most active pro se litigant' thrown back to jail. **PAGE 3**

Fitial justifies CPA exec orders

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has warned that a legislative rejection of his recent actions at the Commonwealth Ports Authority would hurt the CNMI's ability to borrow money in the future.

Fitial in a press statement yesterday insisted that his executive orders and state of emergency declaration for the Commonwealth Ports Authority are "in the absolute best interest of the Commonwealth." He argued that such actions protect the CNMI government's financial standing in the international bond market.

"If the Legislature were to reject my executive orders and administrative directives for CPA, the bond trustee would quickly



Fitial

See **FITIAL** on Page 4

INTERPOL liaison offices now in CNMI and GUAM



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Claudio Norita, left, and Lt. James Ayuyu pose with U.S. National Center Bureau of INTERPOL director Martin Renkiewics in a recent ceremony. INTERPOL liaison offices have now been established in CNMI and Guam.

The CNMI Department of Public Safety and Guam Police Department have joined the 50 states and other U.S. jurisdictions that have liaison offices for the International Criminal Police Organization or INTERPOL.

DPS spokesperson Lei Ogu-

moro said yesterday that CNMI DPS and Guam Police Department were recently designated official points of contact for INTERPOL matters which affect their jurisdictions.

Guam PD and CNMI DPS

See **INTERPOL** on Page 4



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Wally Diaz, Continental Airlines Staff VP Sales & Marketing, delivers his remarks while Lt. Gov. Tim P. Villagomez and Senate President Pete P. Reyes listen during yesterday's celebration of Continental Micronesia's 40th anniversary inside the conference room of Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

Continental Micronesia marks 40th year with simple ceremony

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Continental Micronesia marked its 40th anniversary with a simple ceremony at the Saipan International Airport yesterday.

Walter Dias, Continental

staff vice president for sales and marketing, led the commemoration. He recalled the inaugural flight by Air Mike, as the airline was called then, on May 16, 1968. The historic flight took off from Saipan's Kobler Field, heading to Honolulu on a Boeing 727-100 jet

known as Ju Ju.

"It has been part of our heritage ever since," said Dias.

He spoke of the many changes in the travel industry since that first flight. From less than 40,000 visitors for the entire region then, Micronesia

See **CONTINENTAL** on Page 4

Bush, Saudis to discuss soaring gas prices

By JENNIFER LOVEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

JERUSALEM (AP)—President Bush put the finishing touch on his celebrate-and-be-celebrated Israel stay, leaving the Holy Land Friday with no movement on Mideast peace but hoping to fare better in Saudi Arabia at obtaining help for soaring gas prices at home.

"What's on my mind is peace," Bush told a group of Israeli youth leaders gathered for a short talk with him at the Bible Lands Museum, dedicated to

See **BUSH** on Page 4



AP

In this photo released by the Israeli Government Press Office, U.S. President George W. Bush, rides a bicycle he received as a gift from Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Israel, Thursday, May 15, 2008.

Local

Kaipat: New procedures in place to identify overstaying aliens

One Labor staff assigned to find overstayers through records

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor has put up new procedures to easily identify overstaying alien workers in the CNMI, according to Labor deputy secretary Cinta M. Kaipat.

Kaipat said as part of Labor's new operating procedures, they have established procedures for creating an "overstayer list" out of Labor's administrative actions each quarter.

She said the first of such list was published in a newspaper last Monday, May 12.

"We held this one until the federalization cap went into effect in order to ensure that any slots created by departing workers would be available under the cap," said the former lawmaker.

The overstaying aliens' list was among the issues discussed by Kaipat in her interim progress report No. 4 on the implementation of Public Law 15-108 or the labor reform law that she submitted to the Legislature on Wednesday.

Each quarter, the deputy secretary said, a staff member who has been specially trained in overstayer work will examine



Kaipat

the records with respect to all permits that expired during the calendar year.

"Permit holders who have

expired permits and who have not left the Commonwealth and who have no application, case, or appeal pending in the department will be put on the overstayer list," she said.

Kaipat said the list will be published twice, once in each of two successive weeks, to give persons on the list an opportunity to appear at Labor and correct if any error has been made.

Kaipat said after the correc-

tion period expires, she will certify the list to the division of Immigration, and that they expect immigration to conduct vigorous enforcement efforts.

In addition, the deputy secretary disclosed that they have another staff member who is systematically examining Labor records for each year from 2003 forward to 2007 to find overstayers.

"This is a more complicated

process because the department's records created prior to this administration are not always complete," she said.

However, Kaipat noted, they have now finished hearings on almost all of the Labor cases through 2007 so the status of most alien workers has been determined.

"This will make the process of identifying overstayers easier," she added.



WAVING FLAGS

U.S., CNMI, and Korean flags wave during the 31st Annual Korean Overseas Victim Memorial ceremony at the Korean Memorial Peace Shrine in Marpi Thursday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Senate confirms DPW's Songsong

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Diego B. Songsong emerged from a Senate session Wednesday afternoon as the newly confirmed Department of Public Works secretary.

Songsong, who had been serving as the secretary of the Department of Public Works in an acting capacity since March 12, garnered eight votes from the Senate in favor of his appointment.

Songsong had been serving

as Deputy DPW secretary prior to replacing Jose Demapan, who tendered his resignation last March.

According to Songsong, he plans to process federal capital improvements projects in a timely and responsible manner.

"We just have to move forward with our projects. There is so much to be done, and I am ready to do that," Songsong said.

The Senate did not require a testimony regarding Songsong's nomination, nor did they inquire about his plans for DPW.

In an earlier statement, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said that Songsong has had many years of service at DPW and that he is confident in the newly confirmed department secretary's ability to "capably manage the department and foster unity and teamwork among DPW employees."

Songsong has expressed his appreciation towards the governor, lieutenant governor, and the Senate for entrusting him with such responsibility. He also pledged that he would do his best for the department.

DEQ raises red flag on two sites on Saipan

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on two sites on Saipan and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from DPW Channel Bridge and American Memorial Park on Saipan contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria—*enterococci*—

that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

Tinian and Managaha beach-

es are assigned a green flag.

DEQ analyzes samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 50 locations on Saipan, 10 on Tinian, 12 on Rota and a total of 11 samples from the shore surrounding Managaha. The agency welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter. (**DEQ**)



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION



INVITATION TO BID NMHC ITB-08-010

This ad is paid for with HUD funds.

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the **LANDSCAPING OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS JAPAN CULTURAL CENTER** in Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Wednesday, May 14, 2008, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI and austerity holidays. A non-refundable payment of Seventy Five dollars (\$75.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of \$3.55 per hour which took effect on July 25, 2007 as established by U.S. law. Bidders are further advised to participate the increase of \$.50 per hour that is scheduled to take effect on May 26, 2008.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at **10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 22, 2008**, at the Northern Marianas Japan Cultural Center in Garapan, Saipan next to the Garapan Central Park, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed project site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed Bids must be marked **NMHC ITB-08-010**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, May 29, 2008**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, May 29, 2008 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U. S. Postal Service or the official government postal service no later than May 29, 2008 AND must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than June 9, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, June 10, 2008. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m., local time, May 29, 2008.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Landscaping of the NM Japan Cultural Center". Surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is forty-five (45) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars (US\$100.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

All documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC with the exception of the Bid Bond, Certified Check, or Cashier's Check, which will be returned to the proposers after the acceptance and award of contract to the successful contractor.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

/s/ **Manuel A. Sablan**
NMHC Board Chairman & Contracting Officer

/s/ **Herman S. Sablan, Director**
Division of Procurement & Supply

'NMI's most active pro se litigant' thrown back to jail

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

John S. Pangelinan, a man who was previously convicted over his threatening letter and recently called by a federal court judge as Commonwealth's most active pro se litigant, was ordered yesterday to spend 10 months in jail.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Juan T. Lizama revoked Pangelinan's probation in his criminal conviction for violating numerous terms and conditions of his probation.

Lizama remanded the defendant into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

The judge reserved ruling on Pangelinan's request to serve his jail time on Saipan.

At the hearing, Lizama in-

quired as to whether Pangelinan admitted or denied the allegations.

The defendant who was with counsel Steven Pixley denied one allegation and admitted to others.

In Sept. 27, 2006, a federal jury found Pangelinan guilty for his letter to the editor dated June 1, 2006, and another letter to the editor on June 19, 2006.

The defense's argument was that Pangelinan was just exercising his freedom of expression in writing the two letters to the editor.

But the prosecution asserted that the issue is not about writing the letters to the editor, but the threat in the letters.

In January 2007, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated presiding judge Wiseman imposed a one-year prison term on

Pangelinan.

The defendant appealed.

In October 2007, The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has reversed the conviction of Pangelinan on one count of obstruction of a court order. The appellate, however, affirmed the conviction of the same charge in the other count.

Wiseman amended the judgment to reflect his conviction of one count. However, the judge imposed the same sentence.

On Jan. 7, 2008, Pangelinan was released from the Bureau of Prisons, four months past his

full-term release date because he refused to sign release documents.

On Jan. 22, 2008, Pangelinan was arrested and brought to the federal court after the U.S. Probation Office reported that the defendant violated his supervised release condition for not reporting 72 hours after his release from prison.

Since that hearing, the U.S. Probation Office said the defendant violated many violations such as failing to pay \$25 special assessment fee, failing to show for drug and alcohol testing, and

not allowing a probation officer to visit him at his home.

The Probation Office also alleged that Pangelinan also failed to pay his \$7,500 fine.

Pangelinan was recently arrested following the U.S. Probation's filing of violation report.

In January 2008, Pangelinan filed the \$61.1 million lawsuit against judges Munson and Wiseman.

He also named as co-defendants in his lawsuit two lawyers, a federal prosecutor, an FBI agent, two federal probation of-

See NMI'S on Next Page

**STOREWIDE
50% OFF
AT LUCKY STAR
SAN ANTONIO
+20% OFF
ADDITIONAL
MENTION THIS AD OR BRING
THIS COUPON TO GET 20%
ADDITIONAL DISCOUNT
TEL. 235-1998**

PAWS dog show moved to late May or early June

The PAWS and Beautify CNMI! Dog Show scheduled for May 17 at the CPA Airport Field has been temporarily postponed until the end of May or early June. Volunteers for the event are still needed. If you are interested in participating in this fun event, please contact Katie at busenkell@gmail.com. (PAWS)

REWARD OFFERED
for STOLEN LAPTOP
TOSHIBA SATELLITE
15-4" Widescreen Notebook
PC (A135-S4677)
Stolen on May 12 evening at CIC Centre

Please call Judy
at 234-0610 ext. 131



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp



PUBLIC NOTICE

MAY 17, 2008 (Amended)

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS ACTING CHAIRMAN HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2008 AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WAKIN'S BUILDING, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

- I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 1. Roll Call
 2. Swearing in of Mr. Jesse B. Manglona
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes- March 27, 2008
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- III. **REPORTS**
 1. Financial Report - CDA
- IV. **DIVISIONS/COMMITTEES**
 1. Development Corporation Division (DCD)
 - a. Status of Pending Items
 2. DBD/Public Finance Committee
 - a. Status of the DBD Funds
 3. Administrative Matters/Personnel & Budget Committee
 - a. Administration's Report
 - b. Fiscal Year 2009 Budget
 - c. Fiscal Year 2008 - Budget Reprogramming
 4. QC Program/Economic Development Activities Committee
- V. **OLD BUSINESS**
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS**
 1. IEDC - Building Cutting-Edge, Public-Private Partnerships
- VII. **OTHER MATTERS**
- VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ PEDRO I. ITIBUS
Acting Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

SAN ROQUE PARISH
"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you:
and you will be my witnesses"
PRESENTS

A NIGHT OF TALENTS WITH FR. BONG
May 18, 2008 Charley's Cabaret, PIC Featuring the adult and children's choir.
Please support WYD 2008

PTI MHS CIC Danielles Rosal Zest Shell Marianas Coca-Cola
ISLANDER PTC Pacific Homes Doris PMIC
Rent - A - Car PACIFIC TRADING COMPANY Dress and Beauty Shop Pacific Marine Industrial Corp.

For the benefit of the World Youth Day Delegates to Sydney, Australia


J.E.T. HOLDINGS COMPANY

dba

J's RESTAURANT
SAIPAN BOWLING CENTER

Daily Lunch Specials
Halo-Halo Specials
League Play
Tournaments

AMUSEMENT GAMES

Poker Machines
Kid's Video Games

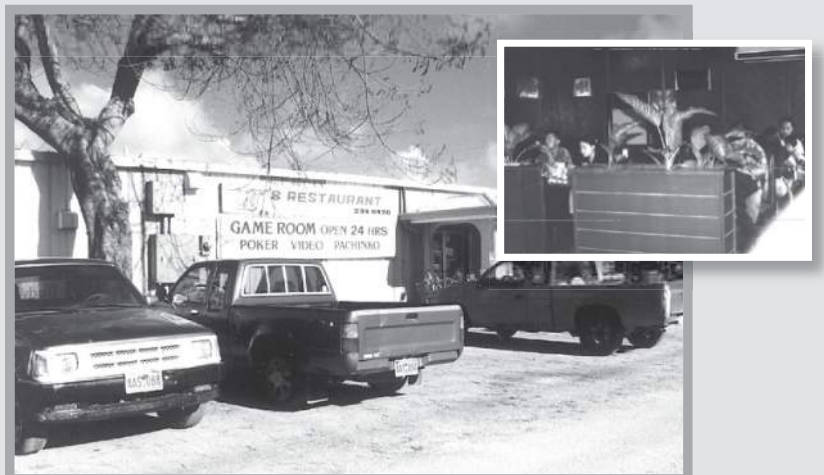
J.E.T. REALTY

Commercial Building Rental
Consulting Service
and Real Estate

J's Restaurant I & II

P.O. Box 29, Saipan MP 96950

J's Restaurant



Beach Road, San Jose Branch • Tel. 234-6420



Middle Road, Gualo Rai Branch • Tel. 235-8640

Bill introduced to tighten regs on meter reading

A lawmaker has introduced legislation that would tighten the meter reading procedure followed by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Stanley T. Torres, comes in light of customer complaints about CUC's inaccurate billings for their power and water usage. The mistakes have been blamed on CUC's practice of sometimes guessing

or estimating a customer's usage based on history.

Under the bill, CUC would be required to provide all customers with an actual monthly meter reading of their power and water usage. A notice indicating the meter reading, date of reading, and initial of the meter reader must be taped onto the meter.

If an actual reading cannot be attained, CUC would be required to call the customer to take it. CUC would only be allowed to estimate a meter reading if an actual meter reading cannot be obtained "by any reasonable means."

Torres in his bill said the CUC practice of estimating usage "is faulty and unconscionable given our dire econom-

ic situation." The fact that complaints are often ignored by CUC makes the practice "unacceptable," he added.

"The rising cost of fuel is alarming to everyone in our community and many families and businesses are doing their best to conserve and to keep their utility costs at a minimum. The CUC's method of guessing or estimating a customer's usage does not reflect the current conservation practice of consumers and it certainly demands the question of why the CUC

bothers to employ meter readers in the first place," Torres said.

Only recently, a residential customer received a monthly power bill showing that she owes CUC \$40,000. And the customer was supposed to have incurred the \$40,000 bill in 24 hours use of power.

The customer said her family has two air-conditioners at home, which they only use at night. Their average monthly consumption is \$200. (*Agnes E. Donato*)

CONTINENTAL

From Page 1

now receives about 1.7 million visitors. The airline grew as well, Dias said, from 100 employees then to 1,500 employees now.

Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, was at hand to congratulate the airline, and to wish it success in the future. "When Continental is successful, the Commonwealth is also successful," he said.

Dias responded by saying that the lieutenant governor's remark also works the other way. "If the Commonwealth does well, Continental does well too. That's why we want to see the CNMI continue working toward improving," he said.

For his part, Marianas Visitors Authority board chairman Jerry Tan expressed hope that Continental would have more flights to the Northern Marianas. He specifically mentioned MVA's call for non-stop flights from Japan to Saipan.

Currently, Continental serves Saipan with regular nonstop flights from the Philippines and Guam, and charter flights to Rota.

"We're still hoping we can make something happen in a way, of course, that makes economic and financial sense to the airline," said Tan.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes, MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Lee Cabrera, and Continental employees also attended the event.

NMI'S

From Page 3

ficers, two U.S. Marshals, and seven other people.

In the lawsuit he filed pro se or without a lawyer, Pangelinan even sued 13 grand jurors and 12 jurors.

The federal court recently dismissed the lawsuit. U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood ruled that the lawsuit "is

repetitive, meritless, vexatious, abusive, and burdensome."

Tydingco-Gatewood also sanctioned Pangelinan to pay attorneys' fees and court costs to all non-federal defendants he included in his litigation.

In a separate order, the judge gave Pangelinan until May 22, 2008, at 3:30pm to explain why he should not be declared to be a vexatious litigant.

Tydingco-Gatewood described the plaintiff as the Commonwealth's most active pro se litigant.

BUSH

From Page 1

the history of civilizations in the Bible. "I believe it's possible. I know it will happen when young people put their minds together."

The discussion in the grass under an olive tree in the museum's garden was Bush's last stop of a two-day visit to Israel to mark its 60th anniversary. The young people who spoke to the president and first lady Laura Bush before the media were ushered out seemed eager for an end to the long fighting between Israel and the Palestinians.

But Bush's second trip to Israel in four months ended without progress.

The two sides have been negotiating since December, but nothing visible has emerged from the secretive process. Both the Israeli and Palestinian leaders are weak among their own constituencies and fresh violence from the Gaza Strip and settlement activity by Israelis are diminishing an already precious supply of trust. The president did no negotiating while he was here. In a

much-anticipated Knesset speech on Thursday, he only gently urged Mideast leaders to "make the hard choices necessary," but made no mention of concrete steps.

Bush was spending the rest of his day in Saudi Arabia with King Abdullah at his horse farm outside Riyadh. Bush and Abdullah were to talk over three tea services, two meals and a meeting, most of their time out of public view. He spends Saturday afternoon and Sunday meeting with Arab leaders in Egypt before returning to Washington.

The White House said Thursday that the president's Saudi visit—intended in part to celebrate 75 years of formal U.S.-Saudi relations—would mark the conclusion of several agreements, laying out intentions to cooperate on nuclear energy, infrastructure protection and nonproliferation.

"These agreements demonstrate our shared commitment to security and economic prosperity in the region and around the world," White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe said.

But the rising price of oil loomed over the talks.

Bush last saw Abdullah in Saudi Arabia in January and, although the kingdom has traditionally been a close U.S. ally, the president's plea for an oil production increase to ease U.S. prices ultimately was for naught. Bush and his aides have argued this is because there is little additional production capacity in the Middle East, presumably repeating what they hear from their ally.

But Saudi Arabia, which has the world's largest oil reserves, has in the past acknowledged the ability to produce as much as 11 million barrels a day, up from a little over 8.5 million barrels a day now.

High energy costs are a major drain on the U.S. economy, which is experiencing a slowdown that some think is already a recession. Oil prices are nearly \$125 a barrel and gasoline threatens to go to \$4 a gallon this summer.

Few expect a different outcome than after Bush's January meeting with the monarch.

Anthony Cordesman, a security analyst for the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said Abdullah may produce something "simply because

it's good manners," but nothing that would have a significant effect.

"U.S. influence over OPEC and Gulf oil production is diminished," he said. "It's not clear what the incentive is to Saudi Arabia. We can't deliver on (Mideast) peace. We can't deliver on arms transfers. We can't deliver on the Iraq that Saudi Arabia wants. We are raising problems in terms of Iran. And the reality is the market isn't being driven by us; it's being driven by China, by India, by rising Asian demand."

Jon Alterman, director of the CSIS' Middle East program, said the Saudis, with a public that doesn't like Bush and a ruling monarchy with growing interests elsewhere, are not likely "to put themselves out to help this president."

"The Saudis don't have an alternative to keeping the U.S. in its corner, but their reliance on the United States, their confidence in the United States is extremely shaken," Alterman said.

Still, Bush is paying a second visit to Abdullah in four months—on top of a stop by Vice President Dick Cheney in Saudi Arabia in March—also in part because he considers him crucial to

achieving an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal. Saudi Arabia immense power in the region means that its backing of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and any concessions he will have to make is key.

The Saudi-American relationship began in the 1940s with a simple bargain: Saudi Arabia offered oil in return for U.S. protection. The United States became the kingdom's biggest trading partner and the Saudis became the biggest buyers of U.S. weapons. Many Saudis sent their children to American schools.

But over the years, issues arose.

Saudis, like other Arabs, feel Washington leans unfairly to Israel's side in the dispute with the Palestinians.

And Saudi-U.S. ties took their hardest hit after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, in which 15 the 19 airline hijackers were Saudis. Americans blamed Saudis for allowing the religious extremism that gave rise to the hijackers. Though anti-terror cooperation has been relatively strong since, Saudis still smart from what they feel are unfair accusations.

INTERPOL

From Page 1

become the 65th and 66th U.S. departments respectively designated to meet the need to have Interpol liaison offices.

With 186 member countries, INTERPOL is reportedly the world's largest international police organization. Created in 1923, it facilitates cross-border

police cooperation, and supports and assists all organizations, authorities and services whose mission is to prevent or combat international crime.

In a press statement, Ogomoro said the CNMI and Guam join existing offices in each of the 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Boston, New York, Chicago, the city and county of Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., Miami-Dade County, Houston, San Diego, San Francis-

co, and Seattle.

"In order to combat the increasing globalization of crime, it is crucial for United States' state and local police authorities to be able to communicate with, and access information from, their international counterparts," she said.

Ogomoro said the communication network and database resources of INTERPOL are ideally suited for this purpose.

To address this need, she said, the U.S. National Central Bureau of INTERPOL (USNCB), the United States' official representative to INTERPOL and a component of the U.S. Department of Justice, in coordination with state and local authorities, has established liaison offices.

The USNCB will forward foreign investigative requests that have a nexus within Guam and the NMI to the INTERPOL offices of those jurisdictions.

Ogomoro said conversely, the newly designated INTERPOL offices will channel local requests that require international investigation to the USNCB for transmission to the appropriate INTERPOL member country or countries.

"Additionally, both INTERPOL offices will educate police throughout their jurisdictions of their affiliation with the USNCB and the various ways in which INTERPOL can be of investigative assistance," she said. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

FITIAL

From Page 1

issue a notice of technical default and this development would have very dire consequences for the CNMI," said Fitial.

Fitial said a technical default notice would ruin the CNMI's reputation in the international bond market and prevent the CNMI from issuing bonds and raising funds for many legitimate public purposes, including a pension obligation bond for the CNMI Retirement Fund.

"No one would trust us anymore," said Fitial, who urged the Legislature to support his CPA actions.

The House of Representatives on Thursday adopted a resolution critical of the governor's move to shift CPA to the Governor's Office, place the autonomous agency under a state of disaster emergency, and apply measures recommended by the CPA bond consultant to help CPA meet its airport bond requirements.

The House members said the governor's actions were unjustified and extreme—"nothing more than an original attempt to circumvent legislative oversight."

During session, Rep. Heinz Hofschneider said he had received assurance from the bond trustee, Bank of Guam, that CPA was "not in technical default."

But the Fitial administration disput-

ed that claim, saying CPA was in fact in technical default by failing to meet the minimum debt coverage ratio and by failing to follow the bond counsel's recommendations.

"The CPA Board did not increase rates and charges, as the bond counsel report advised," said Finance Secretary Eloy Inos. "They generously reduced rates and failed to properly identify funds to support airline discount and incentive programs."

Inos said CPA extended the airline incentive program beyond the original \$2 million legislative appropriation and operated with a deficit, thereby jeopardizing CPA's bond obligations and commitments.

"The only way to prevent a tech-

nical default notice was through the issuance of the governor's executive orders," said Attorney General Matthew T. Gregory, who spoke with the bond trustee.

The Fitial administration also dismissed Hofschneider's other claim as being impractical and unrealistic. Hofschneider said the governor should have just removed CPA board members instead. But the administration said this process would take too much time and cause unnecessary delay, inviting a technical default notice for CPA.

"How long would it take to terminate the board and secure Senate confirmations for new CPA board members?" asked press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. "By the time this process was com-

pleted, CPA would be declared in technical default."

On Monday, Fitial issued an executive order placing CPA under the Governor's Office for 120 days. By law, however, such reorganization plan cannot go into effect until the Legislature has had 60 days to review—and possibly to amend or void—the proposal.

Citing the urgency of CPA's financial trouble, the governor on Tuesday issued the state of emergency declaration. This allowed him to take over the ports authority immediately. Using his state of emergency powers, Fitial on the same day signed directives raising CPA rates, imposing austerity measures, and ending the incentive program for airlines flying to the Northern Marianas.

Young authors write close to 1,500 books

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Students at the William S. Reyes Elementary showcased their writing skills yesterday afternoon as the school held its annual Young Authors Book Fair.

With this year's theme, "Read a book and imagine it come to life" fourth grade teacher Margie Pangelinan said it encourages the students to read, "and not just to read but to really imagine it coming to life."

Close to 1,500 books were written by students from kindergarten to sixth grade.

The students began working on their books at the beginning of the school year, learning about writing and editing their work as the year went by. Pangelinan said each student wrote about two books each and each class compiled one book together.

"What we really want to encourage is for the students to the students to understand what they are reading and use their creative thinking," Pangelinan said.

A third grade student said she enjoyed the fair because it makes her feel like a young author.

"It took me three days to write my book [*Monsters Under My Bed*] and it was really

fun. I had a lot of help from my mom and my tita and it makes me happy to see other students reading my book," the third grade author said.

Pangelinan said the book fair

showcases the creativity instilled in the students and gives them a chance to share their ideas and imagination with their fellow classmates.

"There is no competition but

it is really nice how everybody comes together and display their work. It's also nice that we are

able to see how colorful and imaginative these students are every year," Pangelinan said.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

William S. Reyes Elementary School students read books during the school's Annual Book Fair with the theme "Read a Book and Imagine it Come to Life" yesterday afternoon. The event was organized by 4th grade teachers and was participated in by 678 WSR kinder to 6th grade students.

NMC releases upcoming math placement test dates

If you want to take math courses this coming summer or fall at the Northern Marianas College, then now is the time to take your math placement test.

There is a \$25 fee for the math placement test that must be paid in advance at the NMC's Finance Office. The Finance Office is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm. Students will not be admitted to the testing room without a proof of payment such as a receipt for the placement test fee.

The Northern Marianas College will conduct the math placement tests on May 20 (10am-12pm), May 27 (10am-12pm), May 29 (5pm-7pm), Aug. 12 (10am-12pm and 5pm-7pm), Aug. 14 (10am-12pm and 5pm-7pm), Aug. 19 (10am-12pm), and Aug. 21 (5pm-7pm).

All tests will be held at NMC,

Room D-1.

You must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils. You can bring a calculator, though it is optional.

NMC students are not allowed to take the placement test more than once. The only exception to this condition is for NMC students who have not taken a math class within one year of taking the math placement.

The placement test is administered on a first come first served basis; no reservations are needed. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting times listed prior.

If you have any questions, you can call NMC's Science, Mathematics, Health & Athletic's department at (670) 234-5498 ext. 1200 or 1212. (*Jacqueline Dela Cruz*)

Economic stimulus payment FAQs

Following are answers to some of the most commonly asked questions regarding the economic stimulus payments. The *Saipan Tribune* will be publishing these FAQs as a series.

Q. Can I have my stimulus payment direct deposited?

A. Stimulus payments will be direct deposited for taxpayers who select that option when filing their 2007 tax returns. Taxpayers who already filed and requested direct deposit won't need to do anything else to receive the stimulus payment. Taxpayers who did not request Direct Deposit for their 2007 refund will receive a paper check by mail. The IRS reminds taxpayers who haven't filed their 2007 returns yet that Direct deposit is the fastest way to get both regular refunds and stimulus payments.

Q. If I'm not expecting a refund, should I still fill out the direct deposit line on my return so I can get my stimulus payment directly deposited?

A. Yes. Even if you aren't due a refund on your tax return, filling out the bank routing information will allow for your stimulus payment to be directly deposited.

Q. If I use direct deposit for my tax return refund and my bank account information later changes, what will happen when my stimulus payment goes out?

A. Typically, the direct deposit will be rejected. After the IRS receives a rejection notice, the payment will be converted to a paper check and mailed to you.

Q. If a taxpayer has provided incorrect direct deposit information on his or her tax return, is there any way to get that fixed?

A. A taxpayer can call to notify the IRS of incorrect direct deposit information, but because of the timing of the refund, it may be difficult to stop the payment. The payment will be issued by paper check in instances where a payment is returned to the IRS by the bank. [New 4/11/08]

Q. If a taxpayer provides incorrect direct deposit information and his or her refund is returned to the IRS, will the IRS also attempt to directly deposit the stimulus payment into the "bad" account?

A. Once a payment is returned to the IRS, a paper check will be issued both for the original refund and for the stimulus payment. [New 4/11/08]

Q. Is there something I can do to prevent my stimulus payment from being automatically deposited into the account that I identified for the direct deposit of my regular refund?

A. Generally, if you designated direct deposit on a tax return, then the stimulus payment will

go to the account number you designated. If the account number is no longer active, the IRS will send you a paper check. Under some circumstances you can prevent the payment from being automatically deposited.

If your regular refund has been deposited into your account via direct deposit and you contact the IRS before the week of April 13, the account information can be blocked to avoid the use of direct deposit for your stimulus payment. This will result in the issuance of a paper check that will be mailed to you.

However, if you contact the IRS on or after the week of April 13, the IRS will not have enough time to stop the direct deposit. In this situation, if you do not want your stimulus payment to go to the account listed on your tax return, you should contact your financial institution to discuss possible options. Finally, if the account number is no longer active, the IRS will send you a paper check. [Updated 4/4/08]

Q. If my direct deposit goes to fund an Individual Retirement Account, what will happen if the deadline for my IRA has passed or the maximum amount has been funded?

A. If you do not want your stimulus payment to go into the account listed on your tax return, you should contact your bank or financial institution to discuss possible options involv-

ing the account to either prevent the deposit from occurring or making sure the payment is routed to a non-IRA account.

Q. If I apply my refund to my 2008 taxes, what happens to my stimulus payment?

A. You will still receive a stimulus payment; it will not be applied to your 2008 taxes.

Q. I chose direct debit to pay my tax bill. Will my stimulus payment be direct deposited to the same account?

A. No, the account information used for an incoming direct debit payment to the IRS cannot be used as the account information for the direct deposit of the stimulus payment. People who choose direct debit to pay a balance due will receive their stimulus payments by paper check through the mail. [Updated 3/3/08]

Q. I plan to choose direct debit to pay my tax bill. I know my economic stimulus payment will not automatically be direct deposited based upon the direct debit information I've provided to pay my tax bill, but can I also enter direct deposit information to receive my stimulus payment by direct deposit?

A. Some tax preparation software will allow this, some will not. You will have to make this determination based on your own review of the tax preparation software you use. If the tax software allows you to enter both direct debit (electronic funds withdrawal), as well as direct deposit information, do-

ing so will allow your economic stimulus payment to be direct deposited. [New 3/20/08]

Q. I used direct deposit to split my refund between several accounts when I filed my tax return. What will happen to my stimulus payment? Will it go to just one of the accounts?

A. If you elected to split your refund between several accounts, you will not receive your stimulus payment by direct deposit. Instead, you will receive a paper check.

Q. I want to choose direct deposit for my 2007 tax refund. Where do I find the "routing" number required by the IRS?

A. For a checking account, you can find the nine-digit routing number on the face of your check to the left of your account number. For other types of accounts you should obtain the routing number from the account provider. Make sure you double-check both the routing and account numbers when putting in your direct deposit request. Keep in mind that whichever account you choose for the direct deposit of your tax refund is the account into which the IRS will deposit your stimulus payment.

Q. I chose direct deposit for my 2007 tax refund but also requested a refund anticipation loan (RAL) from my preparer. How does that affect my stimulus payment?

A. Taxpayers who use RALs

or enter into any other loan or financial agreement with their tax professional cannot receive their stimulus payments by direct deposit and instead will get a paper check.

Q. I chose to have my tax refund deposited onto a "stored value card" or debit card through the professional tax preparer I used. Will my stimulus payment be directly deposited onto that same stored value card or debit card account?

A. Yes, unless you entered into a financial agreement with your tax professional to receive a Refund Anticipation Loan (RAL) or had your tax preparation fees deducted from your refund and were issued a Refund Anticipation Check (RAC). Of course, you cannot receive direct deposit of your stimulus payment if the stored value card or debit card account has been closed. In any of these circumstances, you would receive your economic stimulus payment by paper check. [Updated 5/9/08]

Q. Will the IRS allow me to provide it with direct deposit information, if I didn't include that information on my original tax return?

A. Depending on the timing, you may be able to call the IRS to stop a direct deposit. But you cannot correct direct deposit information or request a direct deposit after a return has been filed. [New 4/14/08]

Source: Internal Revenue Service (www.irs.gov)

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 138Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR

Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Barely protected

Under legal pressure, Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne officially—and historically—added the polar bear to the threatened-species list, the first time a species has made the list because of global warming. His action Wednesday was extraordinary. Even more remarkable was Kempthorne's blatant undercutting of his own decision with regulatory shenanigans that will almost certainly mean no new restrictions on carbon emissions and no need to scale back on drilling for Alaskan oil.

Openly voicing disdain for the Endangered Species Act he's in charge of upholding, Kempthorne made it clear that although he was forced by the law to declare the bear threatened, he was frustrated that he couldn't avoid the listing on the grounds that the economic costs would be too high. But an imperiled species is just as imperiled no matter what the price of protection. Yes, this listing will involve difficult conversations about balancing human welfare with that of wildlife. Those are exactly the conversations we need to start having.

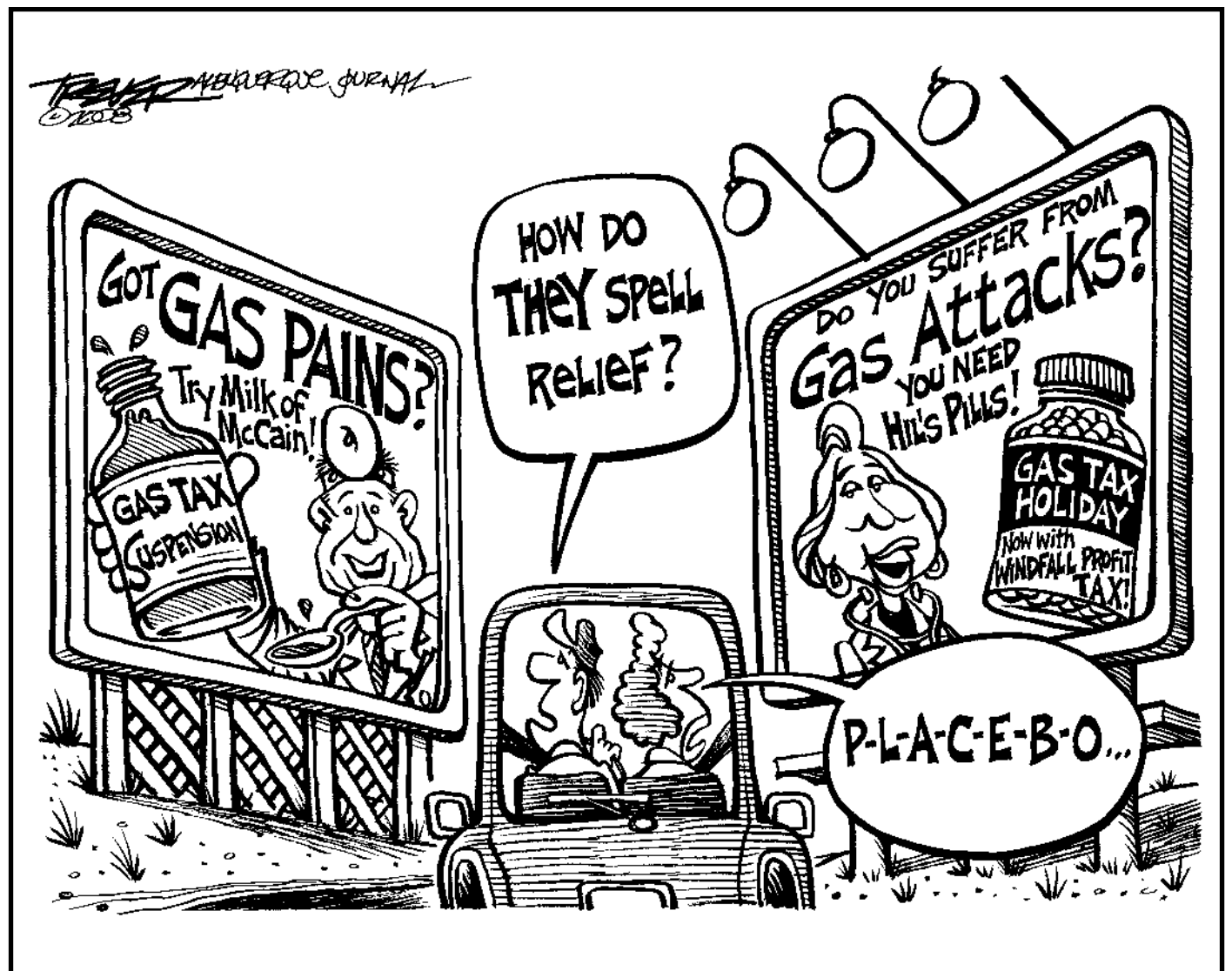
Kempthorne dutifully displayed maps showing a 39 percent decrease in Arctic ice—vital to the bear's survival—over the last three decades. He conceded that the melting was caused by global warming and that human activity contributes to the warming. He then went on to say that his implementation of the new listing would include stipulations that no power plants or other carbon-producing projects could be linked to the bear's plight. And because the threat to the bear comes from warming, not habitat reduction, he said, the listing should not affect plans for oil drilling in its habitat, including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

What we have here is a newly protected polar bear with virtually no new protections.

Kempthorne was right to say that the decision to list the bear was complicated. It would be ludicrous to curtail all human activities that produce carbon dioxide—and they all do—just because they threaten bears. But it makes a mockery of the Endangered Species Act to declare the threat to the bear official, and then officially undermine it.

There are years of study ahead, and the details will almost certainly be wrestled in court. And if the Department of the Interior will not start the conversation about protection for its newest threatened species, Congress should. The encouraging news is that the listing lays the groundwork for these steps—and that Kempthorne, who has placed industry over the environment at nearly every turn, is in his waning months on the job.

© 2008, Los Angeles Times



Please, 'go outside and play'

Can you forgive her? In March, Lenore Skenazy, a New York City mother, gave her 9-year-old son, Izzy, a MetroCard, a subway map, a \$20 bill and some quarters for pay phones. Then she let him make his own way home from Bloomingdale's department store—by subway and bus.

Izzy survived unscathed. He wasn't abducted by a perverted stranger or pushed under an oncoming train by a homicidal maniac. He didn't even get lost. According to Skenazy, who wrote about it in a New York Sun column, he arrived home "ecstatic with independence."

His mother wasn't so lucky. Her column generated as much outrage as if she'd suggested that mothers make extra cash by hiring their kids out as child prostitutes.

But it also reinvigorated an important debate about children, safety and independence.

Reader, if you're much over 30, you probably remember what it used to be like for the typical American kid. Remember how there used to be this thing called "going out to play"?

For younger readers, I'll explain this archaic concept. It worked like this: The child or children in the house—as long as they were over age 4 or so—went to the door, opened it, and . . . went outside. They braved the neighborhood pedophile just waiting to pounce, the rusty nails just waiting to be stepped on, the trees just waiting to be fallen out of, and they "played."

"Play," incidentally, is a mysterious activity children engage in when not compelled to spend every hour under adult supervision, taking soccer or piano lessons or practicing vocabulary words with computerized flashcards.

All in all, "going out to play" worked out well for kids. As the American Academy of Pediatrics' Dr. Kenneth Ginsburg testified to Congress in 2006, "Play allows children to create and explore a world they can master, conquering their fears while practicing adult roles. . . . Play helps children develop new competencies . . . and the resiliency they will need to face future challenges." But here's the catch: Those benefits aren't realized when some helpful adult is hovering over kids the whole time.

Thirty years ago, the "going out to play" culture coexisted with other culturally sanctioned forms of independence for even very young children: Kids as young as 6 used to walk to school on their own, for instance, or take public buses or—gulp—subways. And if they lived on a school bus route, their mommies did not consider it necessary to escort them to the bus stop every morning and wait there with them.

But today, for most middle-class American children, "going out to play" has gone the way of the dodo, the typewriter and

By ROSA BROOKS

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Brooks is a professor at the Georgetown University Law Center. E-mail Brooks at rbrooks@latimescolumnists.com

the eight-track tape. From 1981 to 1997, for instance, University of Michigan time-use studies show that 3- to 5-year-olds lost an average of 501 minutes of unstructured playtime each week; 6- to 8-year-olds lost an average of 228 minutes. (On the other hand, kids now do more organized activities and have more homework, the lucky devils!) And forget about walking to school alone. Today's kids don't walk much at all (adding to the childhood obesity problem).

Increasingly, American children are in a lose-lose situation. They're forced, prematurely, to do all the un-fun kinds of things adults do (Be over-scheduled! Have no downtime! Study! Work!). But they don't get any of the privileges of adult life: autonomy, the ability to make their own choices, use their own judgment, maybe even get interestingly lost now and then.

Somehow, we've managed to turn childhood into a long, hard slog. Is it any wonder our kids take their pleasures where they can find them, by escaping to "Grand Theft Auto IV" or the alluring, parent-free world of MySpace?

But, but, but, you say, all the same, Skenazy should never have let her 9-year-old son take the subway! In New York, for God's sake! A cesspit of crack addicts, muggers and pedophiles!

Well, no. We parents have sold ourselves a bill of goods when it comes to child safety. Forget the television fear-mongering: Your child stands about the same chance of being struck by lightning as of being the victim of what the Department of Justice calls a "stereotypical kidnapping." And unless you live in Baghdad, your child stands a much, much greater chance of being killed in a car accident than of being seriously harmed while wandering unsupervised around your neighborhood.

Skenazy responded to the firestorm generated by her column by starting a new Web site—freerangekids.wordpress.com—dedicated to giving "our kids the freedom we had." She explains: "We believe in safe kids. . . . We do NOT believe that every time school-age children go outside, they need a security detail."

Next time I take my kids to New York, I'm asking Skenazy to baby-sit.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor**WESPAC's history speaks**

WESPAC's misguided malevolent history in Hawaii speaks volumes in the following article. With five years developing strategies in opposition to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine Monument and three years to head off any further marine reserves in the works; it is no wonder, they have decapitated the CNMI government early on. It appears, they are not as innocent as they would have us believe. Unfortunately for WESPAC, every one of their baseless fears has been negated. Unfortunately, for the CNMI, as evidenced by the actions of WESPAC members in the Marianas, WESPAC has not reformed its activities. Indeed, it is safe to say, they prefer to keep the public misinformed and uneducated; they prefer the Pew proposal to create a marine national monument go away before the public can be educated through economic and science studies. John Gourley proved this, when he was asked three times in the last presentation of the Marianas Trench Marine Monument proposal in Kagman by refusing to answer this simple yes/no question: "Would it be better for the public to make an informed educated decision, and to continue asking questions, concerning the Pew proposal for a marine monument? Yes, or No?" How come he had no response?

WESPAC is misguided. If they really were protecting the interests of the fishermen, and were looking at a maximum sustained yield of fish; they should be actively promoting the idea of a marine monument in the top three northern islands. Lobster fishermen in Hawaii; West Coast salmon and rockfish fishermen; and cod fishermen in the New England states would all still have fish to catch, if there were sufficient areas set aside for the replenishment of the ocean's fish stocks. Instead all of these fisheries have collapsed with no end in sight for the cod or hope for all the tens of thousands of fishermen who lost their jobs. Bottom trawlers have, in fact, destroyed so much marine benthic habitat that they have brought the science fiction term, "terraforming," back home to Earth. Callum Roberts in his *Unnatural History of the Sea* calls for

20 to 40 percent of the oceans to be in marine no-take zones. These areas, far from taking fish away from fishermen, would guarantee that there would still be plenty of fish for fishermen to catch. **Fisheries management under the guidance of WESPAC is like a Greek tragedy: All the fish die!**

Following is an article in the Environmental News Network, in which two fishing groups prompted the federal government to launch one of two federal investigations into the nefarious

Reserve and a related proposal to designate the area a marine sanctuary."

Wespac is the agency responsible for management of fisheries in federal waters from three to 200 miles offshore of all islands in the Western Pacific Ocean. The Council is to help the Department of Commerce develop fishery management plans and advise the Department of Commerce on fishing matters. It is wholly funded through the Department of Commerce; its members are appointed by the Secretary of Commerce

ing to NOAA, created 'a continuous stream of ecological concerns,' ending in a 'catastrophic collapse' of the fishery," the fishing groups alleged in their letter to Frazier.

The two groups point out that last week the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration showed displeasure with Wespac's management by rejected their proposed fishing regulations for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

"This slap at Wespac is the conse-

political spectrum," said Aila. "And yet Wespac has engaged in a shameful campaign of misinformation and manipulation of the public process in order to advance their narrow agenda and the interests of a few individuals."

"Everyone in the Hawai'i fishing industry knows that Wespac regularly uses these kinds of questionable practices," Aila said. "We're hoping that by bringing this to the attention of the Inspector General we can force Wespac to reform."

The report reviews some of the conflicts of interest by members of Wespac that might explain the behavior of that agency. Aila said, "What we want to see from this report is for the Inspector General to thoroughly investigate Wespac and do whatever is necessary to get Wespac back on track to doing its job within the legal mandates."

Wespac was not available for comment as the Council opened a four day meeting on Tuesday in Guam. The Council will consider a change to ecosystem based fisheries management for bottomfish, crustaceans, precious corals and coral reef resources in the offshore waters of the U.S. Pacific islands.

Stephanie Fried, Ph.D., senior scientist with Environmental Defense based on Oahu, says "it's about time" for a federal investigation of Wespac's activities.

"Frankly, this is a national scandal," said Fried. "You have the federally funded organization responsible for designing management plans for approximately half of all federal waters in the United States, running amuck and attempting to prevent protections supported by the vast majority of people who have attended over 30 hearings, 100 public meetings on the NWHI over the past five years, protections which are of deep importance to the Native Hawaiian community."

The report and all related documents can be found at: www.scottfoster.org/wespac

Does this seem like a re-run to anyone? It all happened before and it is playing out, again, in the CNMI.

Ken Kramer
Fina Sisu

WESPAC is misguided. If they really were protecting the interests of the fishermen, and were looking at a maximum sustained yield of fish; they should be actively promoting the idea of a marine monument in the top three northern islands. Lobster fishermen in Hawaii; West Coast salmon and rockfish fishermen; and cod fishermen in the New England states would all still have fish to catch, if there were sufficient areas set aside for the replenishment of the ocean's fish stocks. Instead all of these fisheries have collapsed with no end in sight for the cod or hope for all the tens of thousands of fishermen who lost their jobs.

WESPAC activities in Hawaii: <http://www.ens-newswire.com/>

Hawaii Fishing Groups Seek Federal Probe of Wespac Management Council

WAIANAE, Hawaii, November 9, 2005—Two Hawaii fishing organizations are asking the United States Department of Commerce Inspector General for an investigation of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Wespac).

Their request, sent Monday in a letter to Inspector General Johnnie Frazier, is supported by a detailed report which alleges a pattern of "improper and dishonest conduct in a campaign by Wespac to undermine presidential executive orders and laws guiding the establishment of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem

and are compensated by the department for their work.

Wespac staff are federal employees within the Department of Commerce. The Inspector General in the Department of Commerce is responsible for auditing and investigating the performance of the activities of agencies of the department, particularly in cases of illegal or unethical behavior.

Actions that may have violated the law, the fishing groups claim, includes a refusal to follow the law, improper lobbying by employees of a federal agency, misuse of federal funds and manipulations of rules and regulations regarding public participation.

"Council members have personally profited from their policy recommendations, including recommendations regarding the small but high-impact NWHI lobster fishery which, accord-

quence of more than five year's of effort by Wespac to undermine and ignore the efforts of two presidents, the governor of Hawaii and the majority of Hawaiians to protect and conserve the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI)," the fishing groups said in a statement.

"We believe this report shows a pattern of behavior by Wespac that warrants investigation by the Inspector General," said William Aila, spokesman for the Waianae Boat Fishing Club and the Oahu Game Fishing Club.

The native Hawaiian fisherman serves as harbormaster for the Waianae Boat Harbor, and sat on Wespac's Pelagic Advisory Panel for over 11 years and co-chaired the panel for two terms.

"The conservation and protection of the Northwest Hawaiian Islands has support from Hawaiians across the

Be part of the solution, not part of the problem!

My dear brothers and sisters of the Commonwealth: It is time to wake up and realize that we are destroying ourselves through the vast finger-pointing, irrelevant rhetoric, and twaddle that continues to plague our island society.

I hope you all understand that the future of our islands desperately needs this nonsense to come to an immediate halt. Instead of writing back and forth and trying to demonstrate whose position is right or wrong, acceptable or invalid, worthy or worthless, I propose that we get together and join hands to solve the scores of issues, crises, and emergencies that our islands to a great extent need consideration for.

Come forth and be a part of the solution, not part of the problem. As a native of the CNMI who is serving our country abroad, I try to catch up on the latest news from home. I have, for over 10 years now, yearn to come home and

contribute to the community my ideas, effort, and labor to solve issues and areas of concern.

However, I am limited in my attempt to do so because I am serving militarily abroad, and so I contribute in a different manner. As a result, I would like to plead that we all get along as leaders, businessmen and women, professionals, teachers, and commoners, and therefore demonstrate a mutual commitment to improve our islands and move forward.

It saddens me to read each day how inconsiderate we have become of one another. The vast amounts of sarcasm and unnecessary personal criticisms of each other are foolish and unwise.

I challenge those who have been writing back and forth on these non-essential sarcasms and unkindness, to use such energy and writing talents to express ideas and solutions to the prob-

lematic distresses of our islands instead. I can easily tell the educated and talented writers who day in and day out read each others' letters and seek flaws in the text in order to attack or counter attack the other.

I can only pray that all those negative sentiments diminish through time and as a replacement for it, a more subtle positivity evolves and develops for the best.

Remember, it is our turn to solve today's issues in order to shape the future outlook of our islands. Our hatred or lack of pride and common commitment for one another is a route for failure.

Tomorrow's destiny lies in our hands. Take ownership of this responsibility and lead the way. Yes, call on the leaders to be held accountable. But in my humble opinion, I think our leaders need our support and aid as well. Leadership also means being a

good follower and supplying ideas and commonsense.

I call this: top-fed, and bottom-refined. In essence, we must respect one another and professionally acknowledge strengths and weaknesses. There are many ways to execute this in a more tactful and professional way, rather than the attacking and aggressive childish manner we have been behaving.

The horns of dilemma: fix or fight, is the lesson here. Let us not separate the two contexts, and instead combine them to fight jointly in order to fix. We are all adult leaders who are capable enough to respect each others' points of view to become willing to productively debate the matters; and yet, manage to mutually conclude on what is best for our islands and the future of our Commonwealth.

Everyone has right to express his/her opinions. What I must caution, howev-

er, is that to take advantage of this right to personally attack one another, is only useless and will not get us anywhere.

I urge you all to pause for a minute and instead build a different momentum. One that is geared toward positively addressing issues that is for the best interest of everyone. Exert that energy together as a unified group of leaders who work as a team to solve issues and you will be surprised at how much radiance can be achieved.

The long road to providence depends on our actions today. Use the occasion and make it work! We must work together to achieve a common purpose an improved moment for a brighter future.






May God bless our Commonwealth.

Lawrence F. Camacho
US Army Major, Waegwon, Republic of Korea

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Partly cloudy. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.
▲90° ▼79°	▲86° ▼76°	▲85° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°	▲84° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲89 ▼77
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼78
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲85 ▼77
Chuuk	T'Storms	▲88 ▼76
Pohnpei	T'Storms	▲84 ▼79
Kosrae	T'Storms	▲86 ▼73
Majuro	Showers	▲88 ▼79

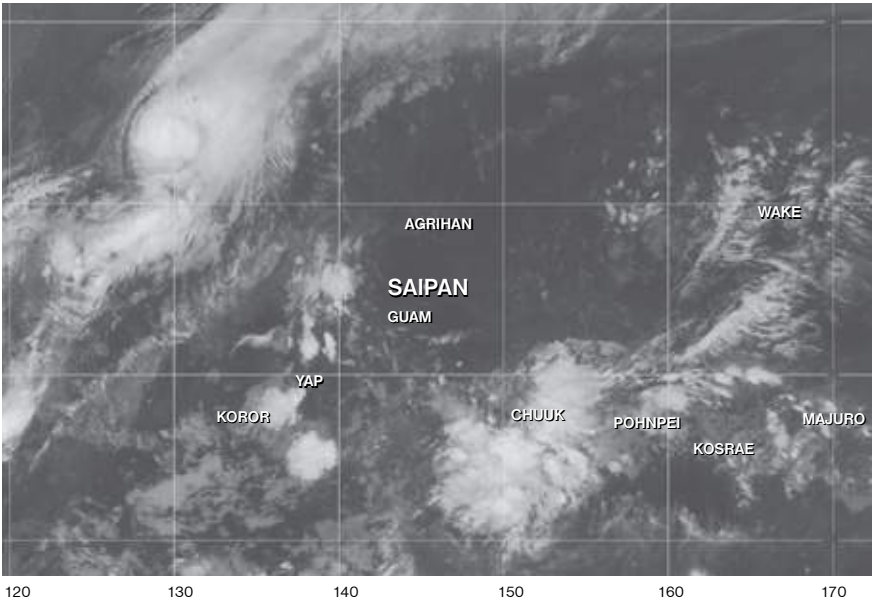
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲61 ▼45
Beijing	Showers	▲70 ▼48
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲88 ▼75
Honolulu	Sunny	▲88 ▼74
London	Cloudy	▲59 ▼41
Los Angeles	Hot	▲93 ▼62
Manila	T'Showers	▲88 ▼79
Melbourne	Rain	▲57 ▼45
Miami	Cloudy	▲88 ▼73
New York	Cloudy	▲70 ▼54
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲72 ▼52
Paris	Cloudy	▲67 ▼50
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲75 ▼56
Rome	Cloudy	▲77 ▼64
Salem	Sunny	▲86 ▼52
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲74 ▼53
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲77 ▼54
Tokyo	Showers	▲70 ▼59
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲76 ▼55

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
5:17AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:29PM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
7:08PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A boundary runs southwestward from 25N134E to tropical depression 04W centered near 21N128E. Extensive cloudiness with scattered showers are found along and up to 500 miles northwest the boundary. Also, numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms are found within 175 miles of the depression. A surface trough arcs northward from a weak circulation centered near 4N137E to 14N139E. Convergence associated with the circulation and trade-winds near and east of the trough are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over a broad area encompassed by a line from 4N133E to 17N140E to 10N147E to 4N140E back to 4N133E. This area includes Yap and Koror and lies just south of the Marianas. Another surface trough extends northeastward from EQ151E to 9N160E. Trade-wind convergence along and east of the trough is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 225 miles of a line extending from 6N148E to 6N160E and within 100 miles of a line extending from 4N165E to 4N170E. These areas include Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae and Majuro. Scattered trade-wind showers cover a large area over and around Wake island within an area bounded by a line from 20N158E to 10N160E to 15N175E to 20N170E back to 20N158E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:48AM	6:39PM
Sunday	5:48AM	6:39PM
Monday	5:47AM	6:40PM
Tuesday	5:47AM	6:40PM
Wednesday	5:47AM	6:40PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:20PM	4:06AM*
Sunday	5:09PM	4:45AM*
Monday	6:00PM	5:27AM*
Tuesday	6:52PM	6:13AM*
Wednesday	7:45PM	7:02AM*

*Following Day

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$182. Off-island subscription rate is \$376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 078 8:40am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:50pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 Daily via Nagoya
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:40pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Schedule of Religious Services										
CATHOLIC										
Mt. Carmel Cathedral Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm										
Korean Center Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm										
Kristo Rai Parish Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am Monday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm Saturday: 6am and 6pm										
Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish Wednesday Mass: 6pm First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm Saturday Mass: 6pm Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am										
Saint Jude Parish Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm										
San Antonio Parish Sunday: 6am and 8am Tuesday and Friday: 6pm										
San Francisco de Borja-Rota Sunday: 6am and 8am Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6pm										
San Isidro-Rota Sunday: 5am and 10am Monday-Wednesday: 7pm Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm										
San Jose (Oleai) Parish Sunday: 6am and 7:30am Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm										
San Roque Parish Sunday: 9am Wednesday: 6pm Saturday: 10:30am										
San Vicente Parish Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6pm										
Santa Remedios Sunday: 7:30am Tuesday: 6pm Saturday: 10am-Baptism										
Santa Soledad Sunday: 7:30am										
PROTESTANT										
Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm										
Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm										
Chinese Christian Church of Saipan Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm										
Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan Worship/Study Opportunities Adult Sunday School: 9am Youth Sunday School: 9am English Worship Service Sunday: 10am Sunday Service: 5:30pm Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm; Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm Mid-week Service: 7:30pm Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm										
Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau, Call 235-0545 for directions										
Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan Worship Service: 9am GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am Sunday: 7am Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm										
Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English) Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog) Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)										
Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville Sunday Services 9:00 AM Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158 Pastor JJ Matsumoto										
Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)										
9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)										
Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan English Service: 9-11am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday										
Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Sunday School: 8:20am Sunday Adult: 10am Sunday Adult: 11:30am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm										
Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 10am- 12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)										
Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm										
Missions Connection Ministry Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm										
Northern Marianas Christian Church Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620										
Saipan Bible Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30-10am Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm										
Saipan Christian Church Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)										
Saipan Church of Christ Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 6pm Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm										
Saipan Community Church (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm										
Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm										
First Baptist Church (Formerly Saipan Baptist Church) Afetna St., San Antonio Sunday <table><tr><td>9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td>10am</td><td>Regular worship</td></tr><tr><td>6pm</td><td>worship</td></tr></table> Wednesday <table><tr><td>7pm</td><td>worship</td></tr></table> Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.			9am	Sunday school	10am	Regular worship	6pm	worship	7pm	worship
9am	Sunday school									
10am	Regular worship									
6pm	worship									
7pm	worship									
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism										
Upper Room International Ministries Sunday 5:30 a.m.-6:30 a.m Morning prayer <table><tr><td>7am-9am</td><td>English service</td></tr><tr><td>7am-9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td>10am-12noon</td><td>English service,</td></tr></table> Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan			7am-9am	English service	7am-9am	Sunday school	10am-12noon	English service,		
7am-9am	English service									
7am-9am	Sunday school									
10am-12noon	English service,									
Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am Sunday PM Worship: 7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S										

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 17, 1999

Murkowski files new takeover bill
The chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources has introduced a new legislation seeking full extension of federal immigration laws to the Northern Marianas, reviving some provisions of an initial measure that won support last year from committee members. Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska) co-sponsored the bill with Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii) in another fresh attempt by Washington to reform labor and immigration standards on the island.

Investigate consumer prices
Alarmed by the disparity of consumer prices between the CNMI and Guam, a legislator has urged administration officials to investigate shipping companies, wholesalers and retailers who may be responsible for jacking up the cost of goods being sold on the island. Rep. Melvin Faisao said he has received complaints on the expensive products that have pushed the cost of living in the CNMI as one of the highest in the nation.

CPA scrambles for cash to improve airport
The Commonwealth Ports Authority is studying various financing scheme to raise the additional \$9 to \$11 million needed to carry out the expansion of West Tinian Airport, according to Carlos H. Salas, executive director. With the \$4 million Capital Improvement Fund set aside by the Tinian Legislative Delegation and the \$4.6 million grant of the Federal Aviation Administration, Salas said the ports authority would have to look for the best financing offer to complete the project.

May 17, 2000

OPA asked to revive audit on Guerrero
In an apparent sign of retaliation against Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero for his expose, the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations is reportedly reopening an earlier audit done on the Saipan senator when he was still the executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation. Committee chair Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano yesterday asked the Office of Public Auditor to provide the EAGI a status report of the “alleged lump-sum payment of overtime, night differential, annual leave, compensatory leave, etc.” made to the former CUC chief.

JTPA seeks support of private sector
The Job Training Partnership Act has called on the private sector for support in placing a portion of the 400 high school students targeted to participate in the Summer Youth Employment and Training Program. JTPA Executive Director Felix Nogis yesterday invited members of the Saipan Rotary Club, an organization of business entrepreneurs, to take in trainees for its Summer Youth Employment and Training program.

U.S. military sub arrives on Saipan today
Marking a first in Commonwealth history, the Northern Marianas will witness today the arrival of a state-of-the-art United States military submarine carrying over 100 officers and crewmen at the Saipan International Harbor. USS Columbus is a 360-foot submarine based at the Pearl Harbor in Oahu, Hawaii. Officials said the submarine, which has a total of 133 men on board, will remain docked at the Saipan harbor until Monday.

May 17, 2001

Education getting less financial support
Financial support for public education in the Northern Marianas has declined dramatically over the last two fiscal years, with the Public School System losing as much as \$7.5 million in overall local and federal funds. Based on PSS fiscal data submitted to the National Center for Education Statistics, the net expenditure in FY 2000 was \$2.24 million less than in FY 1999.

Women legislators' support sought to block takeover bill
The CNMI is soliciting support of women legislators throughout the mainland United States in a bid to block attempts to federalize local labor and immigration systems. House Committee on Health and Welfare Chair Malua T. Peter yesterday started sending out letters to more than 500 members of the National Organization of Women in Legislature and the National Foundation of Women Legislators.

Business

Stocks rise on oil price drop, mixed economic data

NEW YORK (AP)—The stock market notched its second straight daily advance Thursday, with investors assuaged by a pullback in oil prices and some better-than-expected economic data.

Wall Street has been worried about cash-strapped consumers paring back their spending, so it was pleased that the energy markets gave up early gains that briefly drove crude oil above \$125 a barrel.

In other positive signs, the Philadelphia Federal Reserve said regional manufacturing activity is contracting in May at a much slower pace than in April, while major companies including General Electric Co. and CBS Corp. were making deals.

“The encouraging news is that the markets have become more functional, and large companies are able to make strategic purchases and sales, which previously was a very difficult thing to do,” said Alan Gayle, senior investment strategist for Ridge-Worth Capital Management. Still, he added, “the market is still trying to digest the severity of the slowdown.”

Fears of an ongoing credit market paralysis have eased significantly. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said in a speech in Chicago he is “encouraged” by recent efforts by banks to raise cash—a trend that is helping to relieve the credit crisis.

But, Gayle said, “what we’re left with now are cyclical credit strains. And those are likely to linger for a while.”

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 94.28, or 0.73 percent, to 12,992.66.

Broader stock indicators advanced more than 1 percent to their highest closing levels since Jan. 3. The Standard & Poor’s 500 index rose 14.91, or 1.06 percent, to 1,423.57, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 37.03, or 1.48 percent, to 2,533.73.

The technology-laden Nasdaq got a boost from Intel Corp., which rose \$1.13, or 4.7 percent, to \$24.97 after a Lehman Brothers analyst lifted his price target on the chip maker, citing strong product demand.

Icahn to Yahoo board: Sell to Microsoft or leave

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Yahoo Inc. Chief Executive Jerry Yang spent months fending off Microsoft Corp.’s unsolicited takeover bid. Now he may only have a few weeks to persuade the software maker to revive its last offer of \$47.5 billion, or risk being fired in a shareholder mutiny led by activist investor Carl Icahn.

Spurred on by outraged shareholders, Icahn notified Yahoo Thursday that he will lead a revolt to oust Yang and the rest of the Internet company’s board unless they renew negotiations with Microsoft that fell apart May 3 when the two sides couldn’t agree on a price.

To pressure Yahoo, Icahn has nominated an alternate slate of directors to replace the current board in an election scheduled July 3 at Yahoo’s annual meeting. If the uprising is successful, an Icahn-led board presumably would fire Yang as CEO and try to negotiate a sale to Microsoft.

To gain leverage in the looming battle, Icahn revealed that he has spent more than \$1 billion snapping up 59 million Yahoo shares and options to give him a 4.3 percent stake in the Sunnyvale-based company. He plans to seek approval from the Federal Trade Commission to acquire up to \$2.5 billion in Yahoo stock, including his current holdings.

Icahn’s challenge opens a dramatic new chapter in a saga that began Jan. 31 when Microsoft stunned Yahoo with a takeover bid that started out at \$44.6 billion, or \$31 per share, and then rose to \$47.5 billion, or \$33 per share, earlier this month.

UN says world economy will only grow by 1.8 percent

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. says the world economy is “teetering on the brink” of a severe downturn and will grow by only 1.8 percent in 2008.

That’s down from a global growth rate of 3.8 percent in 2007.

The U.N.’s midyear economic projections released Thursday blamed the downturn on further deterioration in the U.S. housing and financial sectors in the first quarter.

The U.N. said the U.S. problems are expected to continue to be “a major drag for the world economy” into 2009. It forecast global economic growth of 2.1 percent next year.

But developing countries won’t suffer as badly. The U.N. said they should reach 5 percent growth this year, compared to a robust 7.3 percent in 2007.

Nation

McCain: Iraq war can be won by 2013

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Republican John McCain declared for the first time Thursday he believes the Iraq war can be won by 2013, although he rejected suggestions that his talk of a timetable put him on the same side as Democrats clamoring for full-scale troop withdrawals.

The Republican presidential contender, in a mystical speech that also envisioned Osama bin Laden dead or captured, and Americans with the choice of paying a simple flat tax or following their standard 1040 form, said only a small number of troops would remain in Iraq by the end of a prospective first term because al-Qaida will have been defeated and Iraq's government will be functioning on its own.

"By January 2013, America has welcomed home most of the servicemen and women who have sacrificed terribly so that America might be secure in her freedom. The Iraq War has been won," McCain told an audience of several hundred here in the capital city of a general election battleground state.

Later, as the Arizona senator drove to the airport on his "Straight Talk Express" campaign bus, McCain was peppered by reporters with questions about the timetable. He and his aides insisted there was

a difference between ending the war and bringing troops home and, as they criticize the Democrats, announcing a withdrawal

upfront without regard for the military endgame.

"It's not a timetable; it's victory. It's victory, which

I have always predicted. I didn't know when we were going to win World War II; I just knew we were going to win," McCain said.

The Vietnam veteran added: "I know from experience, you set a day for surrender—which is basically what you do when you say you are withdrawing—and you will pay a much a heavier price later on."

In the primary campaign, McCain had criticized former Republican rival Mitt Romney for hinting at a timetable.

Democrats challenged McCain's comments, led by presidential contender Hillary Rodham Clinton.

In a statement, the New York senator dismissed McCain and said he "promises more of the same Bush poli-

cies that have weakened our military, our national security and our standing in the world." The Barack Obama campaign said that while the candidate agrees with some of McCain's sentiments, "you cannot embrace the destructive policies and divisive political tactics of George Bush and still offer yourself as a candidate of healing and change."



Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., acknowledges supporters, Thursday, May 15, 2008, in Columbus, Ohio.

California's top court legalizes gay marriage

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—California's Supreme Court declared gay couples in the nation's biggest state can marry—a monumental but perhaps short-lived victory for the gay rights movement Thursday that was greeted with tears, hugs, kisses and at least one instant proposal of matrimony.

Same-sex couples could tie the knot in as little as a month. But the window could close soon after—religious and social conservatives are pressing to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot in November that

would undo the Supreme Court ruling and ban gay marriage.

"Essentially, this boils down to love. We love each other. We now have equal rights under the law," declared a jubilant Robin Tyler, a plaintiff in the case along with her partner. She added: "We're going to get married. No Tupperware, please."

A crowd of people raised their fists in triumph inside City Hall, and people wrapped themselves in the rainbow-colored gay-pride flag outside the courthouse. In the Castro, the historic center of the gay community in

San Francisco, Tim Oviatt wept as he watched the news on TV.

"I've been waiting for this all my life. This is a life-affirming moment," he said.

By the afternoon, gay and lesbian couples had already started lining up at San Francisco City Hall to make appointments to get marriage licenses.

In its 4-3 ruling, the Republican-dominated high court struck down state laws against same-sex marriage and said domestic partnerships that provide many of the rights and benefits of matrimony are not enough.

Polygamist sect's finances are murky

ELDORADO, Texas (AP)—In just five years, the West Texas polygamist sect transformed 1,700 acres of scrubland purchased for \$700,000 into a bustling ranch with a blazing-white limestone temple, sprawling three-story log cabins, wood-working shops and a dairy.

Assessed value of the property now: \$20.5 million.

How did members of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints do it?

Sweat equity was clearly one factor. The men quarried lime-

stone themselves from the hard ground and built the enormous homes with their own hands, using skills learned at construction companies close to the sect's main base of operations, on the Arizona-Utah line.

But as for where they got the money for building materials, dump trucks, rock-cutting equipment and other supplies, that is still something of a mystery.

"Who funded it? We're investigating. That's for dang sure," said Jeff Shields, a court-appointed lawyer studying the sect's finances.

Some suspect the FLDS supplied money to Eldorado from a \$114 million trust fund that once included all the homes and land in the side-by-side FLDS towns of Hildale, Utah, and Colorado City, Ariz. Money may also have come from construction businesses and other ventures run by sect members, including an aircraft wheel and brake manufacturer in Nevada that holds a \$1.2 million Pentagon contract, and an engineering firm that landed \$11.3 million in work from Las Vegas water authorities.

Tenn. GOP mocks Michelle Obama's 'proud' remark

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The Tennessee Republican Party "welcomed" Michelle Obama's visit for a fundraiser Thursday night with an online video that takes the Democratic presidential front-runner's wife to task for a comment some considered unpatriotic.

Michelle Obama was campaigning in Wisconsin last February for her husband, Barack Obama, when she said: "For the first time in my adult life, I am really proud of my country."

The four-minute video posted on YouTube is built around

the remark, replaying it six times and interspersing it with commentary by Tennesseans, identified mostly by their first names, on why they are proud of America.

Michelle Obama later clarified the remark, saying she meant she was proud of how Americans were engaging in the political process and that she had always been proud of her country.

"The Tennessee Republican Party has always been proud of America," the party said in a news release that included a link

to the video. It also urged radio stations to play "patriotic music" during her visit to Nashville on Thursday.

"I'm Bob Pope and I'm proud to be an American because mainly of the First Amendment—the right to worship God anywhere I choose to—and the Second Amendment, I've got the right keep and bear arms," he says, standing in front of a bank of guns mounted on the wall.

Obama's campaign accused the Tennessee GOP of engaging in smear politics and unfairly going after the candidate's family.



ACROSS THE NATION

DNA tests exonerate 'Lizard Man' in van attack

BISHOPVILLE, S.C. (AP)—DNA testing has shown an attack on a family van some blamed on the legendary Lizard Man appears to have been actually done by a domestic dog. Something chewed up the front fender of Bob and Dixie Rawson's van in February. Bite marks were left on the wheel wells and blood was found on the vehicle. The Item of Sumter reported that a veterinary lab in California tested the blood and found it came from a dog. But Bob Rawson isn't sure, saying it would have to be one big dog. Lee County Sheriff E.J. Melvin isn't convinced either. He thinks it was a coyote or wolf. Lizard Man became a phenomenon in the area 20 years ago when people began reporting a tall, big-eyed swamp creature. Authorities never figured out exactly what prompted the sightings.

Jury in triple murder trial convicts Cleveland firefighter

CLEVELAND (AP)—A jury in Cleveland has convicted a city firefighter in the shooting deaths of three people and wounding of two others over a neighbor's July Fourth fireworks. The jury returned the three aggravated murder and two attempted murder convictions Thursday afternoon in the case against 36-year-old Terrance Hough Jr. The defense had claimed that Hough acted in a fit of temporary rage. His attorney had argued that the shootings weren't planned as required for an aggravated murder conviction that could lead to a death sentence. The jury must return Tuesday to hear evidence on whether to recommend the death penalty.

DoD: Chinook helicopters at Pa. plant vandalized

RIDLEY PARK, Pa. (AP)—Two military helicopters were vandalized on the production line at a Boeing factory near Philadelphia, the Defense Department said Thursday as it offered a reward. Federal officials handed out fliers to workers at the Boeing Rotorcraft Systems plant listing a \$5,000 reward for information leading

to whomever damaged the two H-47 Chinook helicopters. "We have determined that this was a deliberate act and not an accident," said Ken Maupin, an agent with the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, at a news conference outside the plant. He said 10 agents were investigating, but he would not comment on specifics or what led to the determination that it was vandalism.

Colombian pleads not guilty to US drug charges

WASHINGTON (AP)—Days after being hurriedly extradited from Colombian prisons, a group of right-wing paramilitaries expressed surprise Thursday as they stood in a U.S. courtroom, flanked by armed marshals and wearing bright orange jumpsuits and slippers.

Eight Colombians, including paramilitary leader Salvatore Mancuso, pleaded not guilty to cocaine trafficking charges. The men, among 14 who were extradited Tuesday, were all ordered held without bail until a hearing next week. "This whole matter took us by surprise," said Juan Carlos Sierra-Ramirez said when asked whether he planned to hire his own lawyer. "Therefore, I am going to take a few days." Others made similar statements and entered their pleas through court-appointed lawyers.

Woman indicted in Missouri MySpace suicide case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Missouri woman was indicted Thursday for her alleged role in perpetrating a hoax on the online social network MySpace against a 13-year-old neighbor who committed suicide. Lori Drew of suburban St. Louis, who allegedly helped create a MySpace account in the name of someone who didn't exist to convince Megan Meier she was chatting with a 16-year-old boy named Josh Evans, was charged with conspiracy and fraudulently gaining access to someone else's computer. Megan hanged herself at home in October 2006, allegedly after receiving a dozen or more cruel messages, including one stating the world would be better off without her.

Asia

Myanmar junta warns against hoarding aid

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's junta warned Thursday it will punish anyone found hoarding or trading foreign aid meant for cyclone survivors, but relief groups said they had seen no evidence of people selling or stockpiling donated goods.

The government's warning came as the official death toll from Cyclone Nargis was raised to 43,318, an increase of almost 5,000 from a day earlier, but still far below U.N. and Red Cross estimates. The number of people listed as missing remained at 27,838.

Myanmar's military, which has ruled for 46 years, has itself come under suspicion of diverting relief supplies. Its warning against hoarding alluded to the allegations, saying the regime is rushing all donated supplies to those in need.

Tons of food, water, blankets, mosquito nets, medicine and tents have been flown in to

Myanmar from international donors, but delivery to the 1.5 million to 2 million affected by the May 3 storm has been slowed by bottlenecks, poor infrastructure and bureaucratic tangles.

New York-based Human Rights Watch said countries delivering aid to Myanmar should insist on monitoring the shipments to ensure all

aid reaches the neediest and to prevent the military from diverting any supplies.

The group also said it had confirmed an Associated Press report this week that the junta took control of high-protein biscuits supplied by the international community and then distributed low-quality, locally produced substitutes to civilians.



In this photo released by UNICEF, workers unload aid supplies Wednesday, May 14, 2008, at Myanmar International airport, in Yangon, Myanmar.

China: Quake death toll could reach 50,000

LUOSHUI TOWN, China (AP)—Troops dug burial pits in this quake-shattered town and black smoke poured from crematorium chimneys elsewhere in central China as priorities began shifting Thursday from the hunt for survivors to dealing with the dead. Officials said the final toll could more than double to 50,000.

As the massive military-led recovery operation inched farther into regions cut off by Monday's quake, the government sought to enlist the public's help with an appeal for everything from hammers to cranes and, in a turnabout, began accepting foreign aid missions, the first from regional rival Japan.

Millions of survivors left homeless or too terrified to go

indoors faced their fourth night under tarpaulins, tents or nothing at all as workers patched roads and cleared debris to reach more outlying towns in the disaster zone.

Health officials said there have been no outbreaks of disease so far, with workers rushing to inoculate survivors against disease, supply them with drinking water, and find ways to dispose of an overwhelming number of corpses.

"There are still bodies in the hills, and pits are being dug to bury them," said Zhao Xiaoli, a nurse in the ruined town of Hanwang. "There's no way to bring them down. It's too dangerous."

Troops in the town of Luoshui in a quake-ravaged area used a mechanical shovel to

dig a pit on a hilltop. Two bodies wrapped in white sheets lay beside it. Down the hill sat four mounds of lime.

In a sign of nervousness, 50 troops lined the road outside Luoshui. Five farmers watched them dig the burial pit, after performing brief funerary rites. Local police detained an Associated Press reporter and photographer who took photos of the scene, holding them in a government compound for 3 1/2 hours before releasing them without explanation.

Across the quake zone in Dujiangyan, troops in face masks collected corpses and loaded them onto a flatbed truck. Thick black smoke streamed from the twin chimneys of the town's crematorium.

Long wait for medical care after China quake

DEYANG, China (AP)—After 11-year-old Zhang Jiazhi crawled free of the rubble that remained of his middle school, his parents began a 20-hour ordeal to get medical care for their son, whose arms were crushed to a pulp.

Jiazhi survived. But with care delayed for nearly a day, the boy who loved to play pingpong and carve wooden toys for his friends, had to have both his arms amputated.

"I tried to ask the doctor to at least save his right hand, which he writes with. But they said it was too late," said the child's father, Zhang Qingyou, a look of sad resignation etched across

his high cheekbones.

Getting care in China's disaster zone following Monday's massive earthquake is a struggle. Hospitals, medicine, blood, needles, doctors—everything is in short supply, except for the injured.

For Jiazhi, the nearest hospital to his farming village was rattled by aftershocks Monday and the boy was turned away. His parents rushed with their son to the city's main square, which was turned into an enormous triage center. It teemed with thousands of injured, overwhelming doctors as they jostled to get on ambulances.

Jiazhi and his parents

squeezed into an ambulance with nine other people, finally making their way to Deyang City People's Hospital, the largest in an area of several quake-devastated counties. After waiting for hours in the packed emergency room, the boy was sent to an operating room, where, along with seven other patients lying side-by-side, doctors performed surgeries at the same time.

But it was too late.

The doctors couldn't save his arms, the boy's father said, because "after two hours, they said the nerves and blood vessels die and there's no way to get it back to normal."

World

Iraqi forces mount al-Qaida hunt in Mosul

BAGHDAD (AP)—U.S. and Iraqi troops moved against al-Qaida on two separate fronts Thursday, with house-to-house searches in Mosul and an operation in the desert to stanch the flow of insurgents and weapons to that northern city.

With the new sweep, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki is aiming to put down Sunni extremists after launching two other major offensives elsewhere in as many months targeting Shiite militants. Mosul, a key transport crossroads between Baghdad, Syria and other points, is considered the last major urban base of al-Qaida in Iraq after the group lost strongholds in western Anbar province.

U.S.-backed Iraqi troops

searched homes and the U.S. military announced that the forces in Mosul captured a suspected al-Qaida figure involved in organizing car bombings and smuggling foreign fighters into the country. There were no reported clashes during the searches in known al-Qaida strongholds in the western and eastern parts of Mosul, Iraq's third largest city, where insurgents are believed to use the cover of sheep and produce markets to smuggle cash, weapons and foreign fighters from nearby Syria.

Sheik Fawaz Jarba, a leader of Sunni tribes in Mosul opposed to al-Qaida, complained that the sweep was "unorganized" and that public warnings of the coming raids enabled al-

Qaida fighters to flee, as they have done ahead of previous campaigns elsewhere.

"Al-Qaida has gone into hiding and have gone elsewhere," Jarba said, adding that his tribal fighters were prepared to join the crackdown but that al-Maliki had not asked them to.

American Marines were operating farther south, near Lake Tharthar, a remote desert region that has been a refuge for al-Qaida fighters and a back channel for supplying the network in the north.

"We're trying to shut down the rat lines," Marine Brig. Gen. Richard Mills, who is heading up the operation, told a briefing at a mobile command post set up in the Mameluke desert.

Security Council wants UN peacekeepers in Somalia

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The Security Council unanimously approved a resolution on Thursday calling for a U.N. political presence in conflict-ravaged Somalia for the first time in years and setting conditions for the deployment of U.N. peacekeepers.

The resolution urged the United Nations to move its Somalia political office from Kenya to the Horn of Africa nation. The council also said it will consider deploying U.N. peacekeepers to replace African Union troops now on the ground, subject to progress in improving political reconcilia-

tion and security conditions.

That will be difficult in a country that has not had a functioning government since clan-based warlords toppled dictator Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991. The warlords then turned on each other, sinking the poverty-stricken nation of 7 million people into chaos.

The current weak transitional government, backed by Ethiopian troops, is struggling to quash a re-emerging Islamic insurgency that has killed thousands of civilians.

The resolution showed the council's determination to support Secretary-General Ban

Ki-moon's efforts to promote a political settlement and improved security in Somalia while holding out the carrot of a U.N. peacekeeping force.

A massive U.N. relief operation was launched for thousands of Somalis left starving because of fighting after Siad Barre's ouster in 1991. But in 1993, clan militia fighters shot down two U.S. Black Hawk helicopters and killed 18 U.S. servicemen in fighting. After that, the U.S. withdrew its troops and the U.N. scaled back its peacekeeping operation, eventually abandoning it in 1995.

WORLD BRIEFS

Hezbollah shows might in Lebanon, but faces limits

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP)—Hezbollah has proven it can force Lebanon's U.S.-backed government to cave in on key issues. But the Shiite militant group's power is not absolute—the government is still in place and Hezbollah has lost support among the people by turning its guns on them. The power shift resulted from a week of street battles during which Hezbollah's gunmen and Shiite allies defeated Sunni groups backing the government and seized much of Muslim west Beirut. At least 65 people were killed before the Cabinet gave in Wednesday and rescinded two anti-Hezbollah acts. Those measures had tried to remove the Beirut airport security chief for alleged Hezbollah ties and to declare illegal the group's private telephone network.

Leader to apologize to Canadian Indians

TORONTO (AP)—Prime Minister Stephen Harper will deliver a public apology for a decades-long government policy requiring Canadian Indians to attend state-funded church schools—often scenes of physical and sexual abuse. "The apology is a crucial step in the journey towards healing and reconciliation," Indian Affairs Minister

Chuck Strahl said Thursday. He said that Harper will make the apology in Parliament on June 11 to Canada's First Nations, a collection of Indian groups that have been seeking such an acknowledgment for years. From the 19th century until the 1970s, tens of thousands of aboriginal children were required to attend church-run schools in a painful attempt to rid them of their native cultures and languages and integrate them into Canadian society. The federal government admitted 10 years ago that physical and sexual abuse in the once-mandatory schools was rampant.

French workers strike in protest of job cuts

PARIS (AP)—Teachers, postal workers and other public servants staged a one-day strike and tens of thousands marched through French cities Thursday, a widespread protest against President Nicolas Sarkozy's planned job cuts. Schools were shut around the country as nearly half the teachers stayed away from work, while about 15 percent of all public workers adhered to the 24-hour walkout, according to the Public Service Ministry. At the same time, tens of thousands of protesters marched through Paris and other cities to oppose the government austerity moves.

Maharlika – PinoyNews

P20 wage hike in Metro

By MICHAEL LIM UBAC, JEANNETTE ANDRADE
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Jumping the gun on the wage board in Metro Manila, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo excitedly announced Friday before employers that the tripartite body had approved a P20 increase in the daily minimum wage of private workers, or P600 per month, to allow them to cope with soaring fuel and food prices.

The President also said the wage board in Northern Mindanao (Region X) had agreed on a P16 increase or “part of the integrated minimum wage,” plus a P22 raise in cost-of-living allowance (Cola).

Ms Arroyo said the new adjustment would raise the daily minimum wage in the NCR to P382. But she said the board had yet to determine whether the P20 would be an outright increase in the minimum wage, or P15 for the wage plus P5 in additional Cola.

Workers have frowned on increasing the Cola instead of wages since the allowance is not considered in computing for bonuses, separation pay, longevity and other benefits.

Inflationary

Although the increase of 5.5 percent or P20 per day was smaller than expected, analysts said it would still add to inflation, already near a three-year high, and could nudge the central bank to raise interest rates at its June 5 meeting.

“The price increase will inevitably trickle through the price chain,” said Frederic Neumann, an economist at HSBC. “The increase, therefore, amounts to a so-called second-round effect.”

In Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon), the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) approved increases of P12-P20 in the daily pay of minimum wage earners, citing rising prices of products and services.

“The NCR (National Capital Region) wage board has come to an agreement which will be refined today,” Ms Arroyo said at the close of the 29th national conference of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) at Manila Hotel, which was at-

tended by top employers and Chinese-Filipino businessmen.

She said Labor Secretary Mariano Roque brought the “good news” to her late Wednesday but he could not make it to Ecop’s closing program because he was busy ironing out some unresolved issues pertaining to the soon-to-be-released wage order.

Reached by the Inquirer last night to clarify Ms Arroyo’s announcement of the P20 wage increase in Metro Manila, Roque said the adjustment was derived from “preliminary deliberations” of the wage board, composed of labor officials and representatives of employers’ and workers’ groups.

“But that is not yet fixed. Workers are asking for a higher salary adjustment. It may still change, depending on the outcome of the wage board deliberation,” he said.

Militant labor groups led by the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) have demanded a P125 across-the-board wage increase, while the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) has sought P80.

The NCR wage board may decide on the form of adjustment before noon Friday, according to Ciriaco Lagunza III, executive director of the National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC).

Doomsday scenario

While employers openly applauded Ms Arroyo’s announcement, their leaders grumbled from the sidelines.

“We follow it. We have said from the very start we will abide by the decision of the wage boards. Definitely, there’s an effect. Even before the negotiations, we knew there is an effect,” Ecop president Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr. told reporters after Ms Arroyo left Manila Hotel.

Doomsday scenario

Luis, however, painted a doomsday scenario for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which make up 97 percent of companies across the country. Thousands of workers would be laid off as a result of the new wage order, he said.

“Obviously, many [companies can’t shoulder the additional wage increase], so they will be forced to downsize,” Luis said. Coupled with the skyrocketing prices of fuel and food, he said,

“there will be casualties.”

Many small exporters had already closed shop as a result of the stronger peso, Luis said. “So we don’t know how many of them [will follow suit]. We just hope for the best that this will not happen.”

Calabarzon’s hikes

In issuing Wage Order No. 13, the RTWPB in Calabarzon said the P12 daily adjustment would apply to minimum-wage earners in the resource-based area, P14 for those in the emerging growth area, and P16-P20 for those in the growth corridor area.

The highest basic pay will now be P320 for nonagricultural workers.

“The board has considered the increases in the prices of products and services, brought about by shortages in supply, high importation costs, and upward trend in world market prices,” Ricardo S. Martinez Sr., labor regional director and board chair, said in a statement.

Exemptions

The wage order exempts establishments that are newly registered and financially distressed, and exporters greatly affected by the volatility of peso-dollar exchange rate, household or domestic helpers and persons in the personal service, including family drivers and workers of barangay micro-business enterprises.

Roque explained the new wage levels for Northern Mindanao, which is composed of Bukidnon, Misamis Occidental, Lanao del Norte, Misamis Oriental and Camiguin, and the cities of Malaybalay, Valencia, Cagayan de Oro, Ozamiz, Gingoog, Iligan, Oroquieta and Tangub.

“Of the existing P26 Cola, they took away P16 out of the P26 and put it as part of the additional minimum wage. So effectively, [there’s a] P16 increase in minimum wage,” he said.

“The remaining P10 in the original P26 Cola, [the board] added P12, [for a total of P22 Cola],” he said.

The TUCP had earlier asked the board for P100 in additional daily wage, citing the skyrocketing prices of basic needs. It said the current minimum daily wage of P244 in the region was not enough for the families of workers to survive.



PEOPLE’S BREAD

A woman smiles as she picks up two bags of bread known as “Tinapay ng Bayan” or People’s Bread from a store Wednesday, May 14, 2008 in suburban Quezon City, north of Manila. The government sells bread at much cheaper prices compared to those sold by commercial bake shops to help people cope with the unabated rise in the prices of basic commodities.

AP

LABOR FRONT

Limitations on new hires

By FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: When can an employer who has laid off alien workers hire again new foreign national workers?

A: An employer who has laid off guest workers shall be barred for a period of 90 days from the effective date of termination from hiring any new foreign national workers who are already in the CNMI to work in the job classifications held by laid-off workers.

With respect to off-island hires, according to the new Labor Employment Rules and Regulations an employer who has laid off foreign national workers shall be barred for a period of six months following the effective date of termination from hiring alien workers from off-island to work in the job classifications held by laid-off workers.

Q: Can an alien worker transfer to a new employer in the event of reduction in work force?

A: In case of a reduction in work force due to economic necessity, the Regulations state that other remedies are ordinarily not sufficient to provide the alien workers with the benefit of the bargain made when entering an approved employment contract and a transfer may be granted. Pursuant

to the Regulations, the Administrative Hearing Office shall convene a hearing within 15 days of notice to workers with respect to a reduction in force to determine worker status.

Q: Until what period can a laid-off alien worker stay in the employer-provided housing?

A: According to the Regulations, the employer must allow laid-off guest workers housed in employer-provided housing at the time of the reduction in force to remain in that housing for a period of 30 days following the effective date of termination upon the same terms stated in each affected workers’ employment contract.

The employer is not responsible for providing food for laid-off workers.

Disclaimer: Readers should conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional legal advice. Saipan Tribune will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader’s reliance on information obtained from this section. Submit questions on labor issues to Saipan Tribune via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the Saipan Tribune’s office on the second floor of the CIC Centre on Beach Road, Garapan.

‘Cosme,’ ‘Dindo’ dump more rains on Luzon, Visayas—PAGASA

Signal No. 1 up in several northern provinces

By JOEL GUINTO
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Tropical storm “Cosme” drifted slightly northwards on its way to northern Luzon, as tropical storm “Dindo” moved farther away from the northeastern seaboard late Friday morning, the state weather bureau said.

Public storm signal number 1 (30 to 60 kilometers per hour winds) was raised in the provinces of Bataan, Zambales, Tarlac, Pampanga, Pangasinan, and in Lubang Island, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical Astronomi-

cal Services Administration (PAGASA) said in its noon bulletin.

The two storms will enhance the southwest monsoon, bringing rains to Luzon and the Western Visayas, PAGASA said, as it warned those in low-lying areas against landslides, and those in coastal areas against big waves.

At 10 a.m., “Cosme” was located 400 kilometers west northwest of Calapan City in Oriental Mindoro province. The storm packs maximum sustained winds of 65 kilometers per hour near the center and gusts of up to 80 kilometers per hour, PAGASA said.

Moving north at seven kilometers

per hour, the storm is forecast to be 140 kilometers west northwest of Iba town, Zamabales province by Saturday morning, in the vicinity of Vigan City in Ilocos Sur province by Sunday morning, and 130 kilometers east of Aparri town, Cagayan province by Monday morning, the bureau said.

Meanwhile, “Dindo” was spotted near the northeastern boundary of the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR), moving further northeast. It packs maximum sustained winds of 65 kilometers per hour near the center with gusts of up to 80 kilometers per hour, PAGASA said.

RP govt recognizes Tuloy-Aral sponsors

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan-based Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and the Philippine Department of Labor and Employment held an appreciation night for all the sponsors of this year's Tuloy-Aral Program last Saturday at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

OWWA welfare officer Leonor Mabagal said the appreciation night, which drew over a hundred people with its theme "Gabi Ng Pasasalamat," is the Philippine government's simple way of thanking the kindness and generosity of the sponsors.

"No words can describe how we feel about the kindheartedness of the community [in the CNMI]," she said, adding that they are all moved by the generosity of the CNMI community despite the difficult times on the island these days.

Philippine Consul General



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Evening emcees Verninda D. Castro and Ulysses T. Sabuco with members of the Tuloy-Aral program smile for a photo at the Tuloy-Aral "Pasasalamat Ng Gabi" appreciation night.

Wilfredo DL Maximo said the Philippine government is grateful to all the sponsors who have contributed to the worthy cause.

"These past years have not been the best of times economically for us here in the CNMI, and yet 58 individual sponsors and 13 organizations have risen above this constraint to reach out to 107 children of former overseas Filipino workers who

are struggling in their daily lives.... we may be small in terms of land size but gigantic in terms of the size of the heart," Maximo said.

During the event, the sponsors got the chance to see and hear appreciation messages from the scholars and Philippine government officials. As such, sponsors were also given the chance to give their impres-



Labor representative Joan D. Lavilla smile with sponsors of the Tuloy-Aral Program.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

sions of what being a sponsor of the project means to them.

The Tuloy-Aral Program was launched on Dec. 16, 2004, to help less fortunate children of former overseas Filipino workers and other very poor and needy children to continue their elementary and high school

education in the Philippines through sponsorship of Filipinos and other nationals abroad.

For school year 2007-2008, there are 206 scholars under the Tuloy-Aral Program worldwide and 107 of which are being sponsored by Saipan-based individuals and groups.

Maximo is extending his appreciation to all the Tuloy-Aral sponsors.

"Mabuhay kayong lahat! May we continue to count on your unceasing support to the Tuloy-Aral project as we prepare for our campaign for the next school year."

Mayor ruling Boracay sued for graft

By **JOCELYN UY**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Malay Mayor Ceciron Cawaling is facing a graft complaint before the Office of the Ombudsman for his failure to control the construction frenzy on Boracay Island.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources included municipal engineer Elizer Casidsid and the board of directors of construction firm, J. King and Sons Company, Inc., in its complaint filed Thursday.

The firm is the developer of the multi-million Boracay Regency Hotel and Convention Center, which was being constructed on a reclaimed timberland and wetland, contrary to environmental laws, according to the DENR.

Undue advantage

In its four-page complaint, the agency accused Cawaling of giving undue advantage to the company saying that Casidsid, under his authority, issued building, electrical, sanitary and plumbing permits despite a moratorium on construction projects on the island.

Both officials were charged with violation of Republic Act No. 3019, or the anti-graft law, and Republic Act No. 6713, or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Government Officials and Employees.

Heeding the order of Environment Secretary Lito Atienza, the municipal council enacted a resolution in September last year calling for a suspension of all construction projects in Boracay for six months, or until an environmental master plan of Boracay has been completed.

The resolution was enforced last January.

Abuse of authority

According to the complaint, the firm filed an application for an environmental compliance certificate for the Crown Regency before the DENR Environmental Management Bureau-Region 6.

But the bureau did not approve the application in view of the moratorium. The agency wrote several letters to Cawaling reminding him of the moratorium, said the DENR.

The agency also asked the mayor to suspend the building permit issued to J. King following reports that trucks were seen unloading earth materials on the project site.

"We have already exhausted all means to get the mayor to perform his task but he abused his authority," said Environment Secretary Lito Atienza in a press conference Thursday.

'Boracay is not his'

Atienza said he personally observed that the construction "was still in full swing" on the island when he came to the premiere island resort for a visit last month.

"Boracay is not his. It is every Filipino's property... the construction must be stopped until the national government and the stakeholders have approved the new master plan," he added.

Government, communist rebels have secret talks in Norway on reviving peace effort

OSLO, Norway (AP)—Philippine government officials and communist rebels held three days of secret peace talks in Oslo this week in an bid to revive efforts to end a nearly four-decade conflict in the Asian country, a Norwegian official said Thursday.

Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Raymond Johansen said the meetings that ended Thursday focused on ways of resolving one of Asia's longest-running Marxist insurrections. He said the talks were kept informal and confidential at the request of the parties.

The talks ended without the delegations immediately offering comment.

The last talks in Norway aimed at ending the conflict stalled in 2005.

The Philippine government and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, or NDFP rebels, agreed to meet again later in the year, with Norwegian help, said Johansen.

"The protracted conflict between the GRP (Philippines government) and the NDFP has caused a great deal of suffering in the country. This conflict does not get much attention internationally. However, Norway is seeking to ensure that efforts to resolve forgotten conflicts such as this receive the necessary international support," said Johansen.

Norway hosted a series of meet-

RP policeman killed, 11 hurt in clash with rebels after secret peace talks

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police clashed with communist rebels Friday, leaving one officer dead and 11 others wounded, after mediator Norway announced the two sides met secretly in Oslo in a bid to revive peace talks.

The police director in southern Compostella Valley province, Chief Superintendent Andres Caro, said police were on combat patrol in Mabini township when they exchanged fire with about 60 New People's Army rebels.

One officer was killed in the battle and 11 others were taken to a local hospital with gunshot wounds, Caro said. One of those wounded was in serious condition, he said.

Caro said he ordered his men to check hospitals for any wounded guerrillas.

Following the clash, army troops in the area defused several land mines planted by the rebels, police said.

The violence came despite the latest efforts by Norway to initiate a resumption of talks between the Philippine government and the rebels. The talks broke off in 2004, after the rebels

accused Manila of instigating their inclusion on U.S. and European Union terrorist lists.

Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Raymond Johansen said in Oslo that three days of meetings ended Thursday and were kept informal and confidential at the request of the parties. He said both sides agreed to meet again later this year.

In a separate attack on eastern Samar island, police Chief Superintendent Abner Cabalquinto said rebels opened fire on a convoy carrying the Gamay town mayor on Thursday. An army corporal was killed but the mayor escaped unhurt, Cabalquinto said.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has ordered the military to crush the rebels by 2010, when her term ends. The military says the number of rebels has dropped from 7,000 several years ago to just over 5,000 this year.

The rebels have waged a rural-based insurrection, attacking police and military outposts and surviving by collecting so-called "revolutionary taxes" from companies in areas where they operate.

ings between the sides that stalled in August 2005 over government demanding that the rebels agree to a cease-fire as the first step in a peace effort, and the rebels demanding that their group first be removed from international lists of terrorist groups.

The National Democratic Front has been fighting for a Marxist state since 1969, and has an armed wing of about

9,000 fighters. Sporadic peace talks have been held over the past 15 years, including several rounds in Norway.

"It is positive that the parties have conducted confidential talks," said Johansen. "Norway attaches importance to creating meeting places for talks between parties to a conflict. And I hope that these talks have created a platform for the parties, with

Norwegian assistance, to further advance the peace process."

Norway, the home of the Nobel Peace Prize, has led peace efforts in some of the world's worst conflicts, including in the Middle East, Sri Lanka, and Guatemala. The Nordic country describes its role in the Philippines peace effort as third-party host that facilitates discussions, rather than acting as a mediator.

8 killed in RP bank robbery, mostly bank employees

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Seven bank employees and a security guard were fatally shot in the head during a bank robbery in a town south of Manila on Friday, police said.

Police Gen. Ricardo Padilla said the victims were found sprawled on the bank's floor in Cabuyao town in Laguna province, after the bank failed to open as scheduled at 9 a.m. and suspicious customers

alerted authorities.

He said two security guards were missing, leading authorities to suspect they were involved in the robbery. Another police officer, speaking on local

radio, said there was no sign of forceful entry.

Padilla said another security guard was among the dead. It wasn't clear how much money was stolen.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Buboy, Shine take a romantic cruise

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Cesar Montano, Sunshine Cruz and their three daughters were spotted at Riverwatch Floating Resto in Bohol. They went cruising along Loboc river. Is that a sign that Shine will no longer cry a river because of all the women linked to Buboy?

Here's Cesar's post Mother's Day sentiments: "My Mama who gave me a guitar for my 10th birthday. I haven't stopped playing the guitar since. Long before I learned to love acting, music was already my passion. Thanks to my Mom for awakening the musician in me." Is he back to strumming Shine's joy with his fingers and singing their life with his words?

Here and there

Gabby Concepcion says one thing but does another. Initial plans for movie with Jolina Magdangal fizzled out because he changed his mind at the last minute. Now Gabo insists he still wants to do a movie with Jolens, so he signed up with GMA Films. But according to Jolens' dad, Tito Jun Magdangal, she is not too keen about the project anymore. Serves Gabo right for believing in his own hype.

Marriage works

Richard and Lucy Gomez are living proof that show biz marriages can work. What were their 10th anniversary gifts to each other? "We are not big on presents on special occasions," says Lucy. "Instead we surprise each other with thoughtful gifts on ordinary days."



Cesar Montano and Sunshine Cruz.

Most memorable moment together? "I'd have to pick 3," she says blushing. "Our first kiss, the night of my 23rd b-day when he proposed to me, and the Sunday afternoon when I told him I was pregnant with Juliana." A million memories, and still counting

Smitten Greek

Miriam Quiambao had the time of her life in Greece which she featured in "Pinoy Meets World." Her Greek tour guide Nicolai (said to have royal blood) was obviously smitten with her. "He wants to come over for a visit," relates Miriam "Gusto niya mag-out of town but, sorry, pang-BF lang 'yun (laughs)." I teased her, "You separated from your Italian husband; now you have a Greek admirer! Even your love life is ala Ms Universe 'cause your suitors have different nationalities!" We both had a good laugh. Then Miriam turned pensive "Mahirap ang long distance romance. I uprooted myself for love when I lived in Hong Kong. No replays, please." Will the Greek demigod be good enough for our Pinay Diyosa?

Now Delara

Mojofly is now Delara—new name, new sound. Lougee (vocals) leads the pack with seasoned musicians Ali (drums), Richard (bass) and Ace on guitar. The band's first single, "Smile," is fast becoming a radio favorite. Coming up next, Delara's deliriously good album, which is set for release very soon.

'Wowowee' cast not aware of Honolulu party, says network

By MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Broadcasting giant ABS-CBN on Monday came to the defense of "Wowowee" cast members who reportedly snubbed over 200 fans waiting for them at a private party in Honolulu, saying they had not promised to attend any events other than the one at Aloha Stadium.

"Wowowee," the network's top-rating daily noontime variety show, staged a two-hour special in the 50,000-seat stadium, the largest in Hawaii, on May 10 (May 11 in Manila). Portions of the show will be aired soon locally on ABS-CBN Channel 2 and on The Filipino Channel abroad.

In a statement to the Philippine Daily Inquirer Monday, the network said it was not involved in the "Wowowee VIP Bash" held at Rumours nightclub on May 8. The party was organized by a certain Bigatin

Productions.

According to a report from The Associated Press, over 200 fans paid \$100 (P4,248) each to attend the event that would supposedly have program host Willie Revillame, co-hosts Mariel Rodriguez, Valerie Concepcion, Precious Lara Quigaman, Pokwang and RR Enriquez, as well as the Wowowee Dancers, as guests.

The report said ticket holders complained they were made to wait for hours and that, in the end, only three dancers turned up.

In a statement, ABS-CBN corporate communications head Bong Osorio said: "The 'Wowowee' production team received an invitation from the organizers of the private party, but [the team] never accepted, committed or agreed to bring the [cast], except for the three dancers... [The team was also] unaware that tickets [for the event] were being sold."



Willie Revillame

Paolo Bediones tells personal story of survival

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—"I'll be debt-free by the end of this year," Paolo Bediones declares when asked about his own personal story of survival at the "Survivor Philippines" jam-packed auditions in Iloilo.

He finally puts to rest speculations about his failed business venture. "I am taking care of debts that are not even mine. I trusted the wrong people and made hasty decisions."

Pao has learned his lesson well. He's wiping the slate clean as he gears up to take 16 castaways to a remote island (out of the Philippines) for a 39-day challenge in the local version of the groundbreaking reality series to premiere in August on GMA 7.

Created by Charlie Parsons in the 1990s, "Survivor" has 30 versions all over the globe. It sparked reality-mania worldwide. The Philippine franchise will stick to the rules by the letter. The Kapuso network is giving its all to ensure a spectacular Pinoy edition.

Ilonggos came in full force to SM Iloilo last May 8 and 9 to get a crack at being the sole survivor who should be ready to leave his/her comfort zone for the danger zone and win P3 million tax-free.

"It's no artista search. We are looking for interesting characters who can last without extra rice," says Pao. "Even if you're the smartest or the most gorgeous, that

doesn't give you an edge in the auditions."

For a while, Pao thought the game was over for him. "When 'Extra Challenge' ended, I got very depressed. I would go malling just to check if people still recognized me. Hosting 'Survivor' is 'Extra Challenge' times six. I'm overwhelmed that I still have it."

His apprehensions about being incommunicado and in unfamiliar territory for 39 days? "I'm afraid I may not be able to keep the promises I made to myself, like staying fit while on the island," he muses. "And I'm challenging myself not to cry. It's not just the loneliness of being away. I may get to the point where I'd ask what I got myself into. What would I do after the work's done? Magbibilang ako ng buhangin?"

Is he emotionally prepared to be away from his beauty queen GF, Abby Cruz? "It's going to be a tough test to our relationship. This may sound cheesy but if we don't have God in the center of our relationship, I don't know how we will last being apart for that long," he says.

He sees himself settling down with Abby after his "Survivor" stint. "I've told Abby everything about my past. Dark secrets and all (laughs). She's kinda selosa pero nasa lugar naman."

How would Pao handle it if one of the castaways flirts with him? "I'm not allowed to communicate with them. Besides, priorities change in the island. We will all be

too busy finding ways to survive. No time for hanky-panky."

Other auditions for "Survivor" will be held on May 16 (Dagupan), May 17 and 18 (Baguio), May 21 and 22 (SM North Edsa) and May 23 (SM Manila).

The wild beckons! Show the world that Pinoyos will not just survive but prevail.

Colorful pair

Robin Padilla and Ai Ai de las Alas both have checkered love lives. Their first team-up in Viva Films "Ikaw Pa Rin, Bongga Ka Boy," which opens today, is equally colorful.

The action-comedy flick has more twists and turns than a zigzag road. Ai plays a vet gripped with panic knowing her biological clock is ticking away. Binoe portrays a fireman who feels there's a void in him aching to be filled.

During the controversial "Binoe episode" in my life, he told me unusual stories about all the girls he used to love. Such as the time he was pampered like a king but it felt like he had blinders on like a horse.

"Sobra-sobra magbigay ang babae na yon," Binoe recalls. "Feeling ko sinusubuan ako ng masasarap na pagkain pero bawal akong tumingin sa iba. Para akong nasa golden cage."

Now Binoe is set to hit gold in the box office again.

Optimistic son

Mark Anthony Fernandez remains

optimistic about his dad Rudy's bout with the Big C. "Gagaling si Papa," he says with conviction. "Medyo humina lang siya ngayon kasi bagong opera siya. They had to take out water from his bile duct."

How is he coping with the crisis? "Basta I always start my thoughts by putting the word 'believe' in my head. I believe that the pain papa is going through now is part of the healing process. I believe that God can move mountains."

Daboy's recovery rate must increase with a son like Mark who looks out for him and looks up to him.

Musical show

Regine Velasquez has no qualms about admitting that she got kinda "krung krung" when she toyed with the idea of leaving GMA 7.

"That's water under the bridge. Time to move on," she explains.

Her new musical show "Songbird," which premieres May 15 at 11 p.m., gives her all the reasons to stay put in the Kapuso network.

"Every episode is thematic, with different genres of various singers. I will get a chance to sing songs you don't usually hear in my concerts," she says.

If she could choose just one song to sing, what would it be? "Pang-arap Ko ang Ibigin Ka' because it's the first song Ogie wrote especially for me."

In "Songbird," there will be a song for everyone. It's an EARE-sistible concert TV extravaganza!



Paolo Bediones

Maharlika – Opinyon

Natural

I read with much interest a couple of bishops' take on gays. Their remarks were occasioned by several other Church officials earlier expressing their unhappiness over gays participating in the Santacruzian traditional parade, which they said tarnished the image of the Virgin Mary. It stirred up a minor storm last week.

Bishop Jose Oliveros, chair of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) Office on Bio-ethics, says that contrary to popular belief, the Catholic Church is not intolerant of gays, it is liberal with gays. The Church, he says, has come to terms with them. "We try to be compassionate and understand homosexuals and guide them towards the right path where they should not act out on their desires." By itself, being attracted to the same sex is not a sin. Doing something about that attraction is.

Bishop Leonardo Medroso, CBCP Commissioner on Canon Law chair, agrees. He has a rather clever way of proving it. Catholics, he says, are forbidden to have sex outside marriage. That applies to everyone, man or woman. "Marriage and sex, as the Church views it, are solely for reproduction. That's the nature of marriage, opening up a couple to producing children. We cannot have that in a man-to-man or woman-to-woman relationship. Therefore, sex between persons of the same sex becomes unnatural and offends the Church."

The argument is clever. It says nothing about whether being gay is aberrant or not. It merely says that all sex outside of marriage is a sin. And since gays may not marry (at least each other), then any sex by them is a sin!

The easiest course is for gays to just bolt out of Catholicism and shop around for a faith more hospitable to their cause. Though I grant that isn't easy: Islam seems far more forbidding, with its irascible "May Allah strike down the unclean" attitude toward those who do not fit the mold. I don't know what the Buddhist, Hindu and Confucian positions are.

But not all Filipino gays will want to do that, many of them counting themselves lucky to be embracing Christ—in the figurative sense of course. I personally have gay friends who are good and decent—why shouldn't they be, they're no different from the rest of us—who are self-professed Christians, and who have gay relationships. A couple of gay women I know are even planning to have kids by artificial insemination. They cannot imagine a God that is compassionate and merciful who will consign them to hell because of it. But that's the wonder of it, how the Church insists on practicing the religious equivalent of Procrustes' bed: If the person does not fit the bed, cut off or stretch his arms and limbs until he does.

The mandate of heaven

The ancient Chinese believed that the "mandate of Heaven" was revealed by tangible signs, such as flood or famine. Such misfortunes were indications that the legitimacy of a ruler was waning. Confucius elaborated the idea further, and taught that the "mandate of Heaven" was dependent on knowing the moral order of the universe, and demonstrating it in the six relationships that govern superiors and subordinates (i.e. minister to prince, friend to friend, teacher to student).

From "The Analects of Confucius" (the L. Giles translation) come some useful principles to ponder. The first two extracts concern definitions of good government.

The first involves the "five excellent things" and the "four evil things": "Tzū Chang asked Confucius, saying: What are the essentials of good government? The Master said: Esteem the five excellent, and banish the four evil things; then you will become fit to govern." Tzū Chang then asked: "What are the five excellent things?" Confucius replied, "The wise and good ruler is benevolent without expending treasure; he lays burdens on the people without causing them to grumble; he has desires without being covetous; he is serene without being proud; he is awe-inspiring without being ferocious. He is benevolent without expending treasure."

Then, the bad: "Tzū Chang then asked: What are the four evil things? The Master said: Cruelty: leaving the people in their native ignorance, yet punishing their wrong-doing with death. Oppression: requiring the immediate completion of tasks imposed without previous warning. Ruthlessness: giving vague orders, and then insisting on punctual fulfillment. Peddling husbandry: stinginess in conferring the proper rewards on deserving men."

The second related extract involves the tangible signs of good government, and the things that can be dispensed with, and the thing that absolutely cannot be dispensed with: "Tzū Kung asked for a definition of good government. The Master replied: It consists in providing enough food to eat, in keeping enough soldiers to guard the State, and in winning the confidence of the people. And if one of these three things had to be sacrificed, which

The Church's doctrine on marriage in particular should be enough to drive Catholics, straight or gay, into the arms of Hinduism, which extols the virtues of the Kama Sutra, or at least does not frown on it. The idea that marriage and sex exist solely for procreation could only have been invented either by masochists or persons whose nerve endings have been dulled to a state of insensateness. One is tempted to say that this is a case where the sheep should assure the shepherds that sex, or getting laid, or f---ing your brains out—

The idea of a couple, married or not, having sex in order to procreate is hilarious. It conjures the image of them hard at it (no pun intended for the male partner), enduring the ordeal, determined only like soldiers pinned down in trenches to persevere out of a sense of duty and finally to break through in one great rush. What a perverse and joyless act that is. I doubt any Christian, short of an ascetic, will fill the bill.

three ways of expressing a miracle of Creation—is one of the most intense, well, religious experiences they can possibly have. But I doubt they need to be assured it at all. If they did, the Pope wouldn't have to publicly apologize to the victims of all sorts of sexual abuse by the clergy.

The idea of a couple, married or not, having sex in order to procreate is hilarious. It conjures the image of them hard at it (no pun intended for the male partner), enduring the ordeal, determined only like soldiers pinned down in trenches to persevere

should go first? The Master replied: Sacrifice the soldiers. And if of the two remaining things one had to be sacrificed, which should it be? The master said: Let it be the food. From the beginning, men have always had to die. But without the confidence of the people no government can stand at all."

Then two extracts in a similar vein, on the means to maintain public confidence, and the means to instill harmony in the people.

There's a simple rule of thumb concerning the hiring and firing of officials: "Duke Ai asked, saying: What must I do that my people may be contented? Confucius replied: Promote the upright and dismiss all evildoers, and the people will be contented. Promote the evil-doers and dismiss the upright, and the people will be discontented."

A similar reiteration concerning promotions: "Chi K'-ang Tzū asked by what means he might cause his people to be respectful and loyal, and encourage them in the path of virtue. The Master replied: Conduct yourself towards them with dignity, and you will earn their respect; be a good son and a kind prince, and you will find them loyal; promote the deserving and instruct those who fall short, and they will be encouraged to follow the path of virtue."

And then, an extract pointing to the importance of precision on the part of policymakers: "Tzū Lu said: The Prince of Wei is waiting, Sir, for you to take up the reins of government. Pray what is the first reform you would introduce? The Master replied: I would begin by defining terms and making them exact. Oh, indeed! exclaimed Tzū Lu. But how can you possibly put things straight by such a circuitous route? The Master said: How unmannerly you are, Yu! In matters which he does not understand, the wise man will always reserve his judgment. If terms are not correctly defined, words will not harmonize with things. If words do not harmonize with things, public business will remain undone. If public business remains undone, order and harmony will not flourish. If order and harmony do not flourish, law and justice will not attain their ends. If law and justice do not attain their ends, the people will be unable to move hand or foot. The wise man, therefore, frames his definitions to regulate his

THERE'S THE RUB

By CONRADO DE QUIROS

Philippine Daily Inquirer



out of a sense of duty and finally to break through in one great rush. What a perverse and joyless act that is. I doubt any Christian, short of an ascetic, will fill the bill.

Whatever happened to love? Whatever happened to ecstasy? Whatever happened to two people, straight or gay, bonded by feelings that cannot be expressed by words, needing to express themselves to each other by flinging themselves into each other's arms and surrendering themselves into a consummation devoutly to be wished? Surely that is part of the magic of life?

Which brings me to the argument that the Church is not proscribing against gays, it is merely proscribing against gays acting as gays, or that it is not demanding that gays do not get attracted to other gays, it is merely demanding that gays do not act on it. I don't know about you but I found Ang Lee's "Brokeback Mountain" to be an honest-to-goodness love story, ranking up there with "When Harry Met Sally" and "Sleepless in Seattle." Gays do fall in love too, and what I figure is unnatural is to compel them on the ground that it is perverse or that they cannot procreate to abort it. There is nothing more natural than love in whatever form it takes. Sex is not overrated, procreation is. Demanding that gays feel but not fulfill is not Christian, it is sadistic.

I don't know the finer points of theology, but I've always had the impression that what distinguished the Old Testament from the New Testament is that the New looks at the world more positively. Where the Old Testament called on fire and brimstone to befall those who failed to obey their ten "Thou shalt not's," the New Testament called on God's grace to fall on those who obeyed his son's single commandment of "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." That seems like a pitch for tolerance and largeness of spirit. Last I looked, if Jesus Christ frowned on anything, it was on prissiness and hypocrisy, preferring the company of fishers and a reformed (?) prostitute to those that scorned them.

It was so unnatural they nailed him to the cross.

THE LONG VIEW

By MANUEL L. QUEZON III

Philippine Daily Inquirer



speech, and his speech to regulate his actions. He is never reckless in his choice of words."

Finally, the things that make for effective government, and which weaken it: "Confucius rejoined: Ch'iu, an honest man, hates your hypocrite who will not openly avow his greed, but tries instead to excuse it. I have heard that the ruler of a state or of a clan is troubled not by the smallness of its numbers but by the absence of even-handed justice; not by poverty but by the presence of discontent; for where there is justice there will be no poverty; where there is harmony there will be no lack in numbers; where there is content there will be no revolution. This being the case then, if outlying communities resist your authority, cultivate the arts of refinement and goodness in order to attract them; and when you have attracted them, make them happy and contented. Now you two, Yu and Ch'iu, are aiding and abetting your master; here is an outlying community which resists your authority, and you are unable to attract it. Partition and collapse are imminent in your own State, and you are unable to preserve it intact. And yet you are planning military aggression within the borders of your country! Verily I fear that Chi-sun's troubles will come, not from Chuan-yü, but from the interior of his own palace."

The issues that confront us, today: food security, government corruption, the rigodon of unimpressive appointive officials, the possibility of renewed conflict in Mindanao, charter change or change in the heart. All have echoes in what was said millennia ago.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari



CANDLE LIGHT VIGIL

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Children of nonresident workers light their candles during the candle light vigil to celebrate the federalization bill's passage at Garapan Fishing Base Saturday night.



FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Members of the newly formed Coalition of United Guest Workers recite their oath during the first general assembly of the (CNMI) at the Garapan Central Park.



TASTE OF PALMS RESORT

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Customers line up to buy food and drinks at the Palms Resort Saipan booth during the Taste of the Marianas at the American Memorial Park last Saturday. Thousands of people are expected to visit the event held every Saturday for the month of May.



Staff of the Palms Resort Saipan are busy preparing the orders from customers at the Taste of the Marianas event at the American Memorial Park last Saturday. The Palms Resort Saipan's booth was one of the most busy booths at the event that is set every Saturday until May 31.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



Nonresident workers sing the petition during the first general assembly of the newly formed Coalition of United Guest Workers (CNMI) at the Garapan Central Park.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



BOTTOM'S UP

Pacific Wines and Spirits' Orleyne Tabucanon joins Northern Marianas Bartenders Association members on the Carlsberg booth at the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



MUSICAL RECITAL

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Parents, students, and guests give a round of applause for the RC Sablan School of Music students after performing a special song number for mothers in observance of Mother's Day celebration during the school's musical recital at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater Sunday night.



NMI Bartenders Association president Lito Espino with Pacific Wines and Spirits' Orleyne Tabucanon on the Carlsberg booth.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Youngstyle

On Thin Ice

In Hudson Bay and some other areas, the ice melts completely in the summer. In the Chukchi and Beaufort seas, the ice remains solid year-long.



Polar bears are almost completely dependent on Arctic sea ice for survival. Graphic shows areas where ice melts or remains solid all year, and indicates polar bear range and dens.

The heat is on for polar bears

By **BRENNAL MALONEY**
© 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—The Bush administration has an important decision to make by Thursday. It must decide whether polar bears deserve protection under the Endangered Species Act.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has asked that polar bears be listed as endangered because global warming is affecting their habitat. But some businesses are against the proposal because of how it might affect their future operations.

Polar bears are almost completely dependent on Arctic sea ice for survival. They use the ice as a platform from which to hunt and feed on seals, to seek mates and to travel long distances. However, the annual sea ice in the Arctic is now melting earlier in the spring and forming later in the fall.

Why Does This Matter?

Polar bears, the world's largest land carnivores, have no natural enemies. Their diet consists mostly of ringed and bearded seals. Rifts in the ice, called leads, act as breathing holes for seals. A polar bear will crouch near such a hole and wait patiently—from hours to days—for a seal to surface. When it does, the bear will reach into the hole with a forepaw and drag the seal out onto the ice to catch it.

As the southern edge of the Arctic ice cap melts in the summer, most polar bears move north with the retreating sea ice to continue their hunting. Some bears get stranded on land and spend their summers living off body fat stored from hunting in the spring and winter.

Higher annual temperatures, which scientists say are likely caused by greenhouse gases, are shrinking this ice

that the bears depend on for survival.

How Serious Is the Problem?

Using satellite images, the National Snow and Ice Data Center in Boulder, Colo., estimates that the Arctic ice cap has shrunk by one-fifth since 1979. The U.S. Department of the Interior reports a decline in late-summer Arctic sea ice by as much as 7.7 percent per decade since 1978. Scientific observations in some areas also have shown a thinning of the ice by almost a third from the 1960s to the 1990s.

All of these changes leave polar bears with less time on the sea ice to hunt for food and build up their fat stores. When they spend more time on land, where hunting is not possible, polar bears end up eating less. The reduction in sea ice also forces bears to swim longer distances, which further depletes their stored energy.

BEAR ESSENTIALS

Polar bears live in one of the planet's coldest environments and have a body built to survive.

Size: Adult males typically measure 6 1/2 to 8 feet (from nose to tail) and weigh 700 to 1,500 pounds. Females are about half that weight.

Average lifespan in the wild: 25 to 30 years.

Name: Its Latin name *Ursus maritimus* means "sea bear"; also known locally as nanook, nanuq, ice bear and white bear.

Paws: Measure 12 inches across in an adult; distribute the bear's weight on snow and ice. The foot pad is covered with tiny hairs that provide traction.

Fur: Consists of a layer of dense underfur and an outer layer of guard hairs; white coat provides camouflage in snow and ice.

Skin: Black, to better soak up the sun's warming rays.

Insulation: About four inches of blubber traps heat.

Sense of smell: Well-developed,

able to detect seals nearly a mile away.

TRUE OR FALSE?

A hunting bear will cover its black nose while lying in wait for a seal.

False. The legend is widespread among native hunters, but scientists who study polar bears have not reported seeing this behavior.

All polar bears are left-pawed.

False. Scientists observing these animals haven't noticed a preference.

Polar bears live at both poles.

False. Polar bears live only in the area around the North Pole.

Polar bears can swim distances of more than 100 miles.

True.

Sources: U.S. Department of the Interior; Polar Bears International (© 2008, *The Washington Post*)

Endangered Species Act

The Endangered Species Act was passed by Congress in 1973 to protect plants and animals at risk of becoming extinct. Species on the list are classified as "endangered" or "threatened," depending on how many are left in the wild and how severely their survival is at risk.

A species listed as endangered is in danger of becoming extinct throughout a significant portion of the areas where it exists. Threatened species are those that are likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Ser-

vice, part of the Department of the Interior, is responsible for listing, delisting and reclassifying species protected by the law. Making changes can take more than a year. Once a species makes the list, protective measures might include restrictions on hunting, transporting and trading (buying and selling) that plant or animal.

As of Sunday, 1,179 animal species worldwide were listed as endangered or threatened. That includes 608 in the United States. (© 2008, *The Washington Post*)

The number of polar bears worldwide is estimated at 20,000 to 25,000. The U.S. Geological Survey predicts that two-thirds of the population could vanish with the melting habitat by 2050.

What a Change Would Mean

Only two species—elkhorn coral and staghorn coral in the Caribbean Sea—have gotten Endangered Species Act protection because of global warming.

In theory, a listing for the polar bear could trigger a plan with wide-reaching consequences.

Opponents say that protecting polar bears could block new oil and gas drilling in one of the prime polar bear habitats in the Chukchi Sea off Alaska. Others say that proposed coal-fired power plants, which would be used to meet the United States' growing energy needs, would not be built.

A stylish way to get math in your head

By **DENEEN L. BROWN**
© 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

You know that you can have a mathematical equation in your head, but how about in your hair?

Raychel Hopkins, 10, never thought about braiding math into her hair, either. But here she is on a Sunday afternoon at the Baltimore Museum of Art using math concepts to design a braided hairstyle on a computer.

"Our math teacher doesn't teach us like this. I like this math," says the Baltimore fourth-grader.

Raychel is working on a computer program designed by Ron Eglash, who teaches science and technology studies at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York. Years ago, Eglash began studying patterns found in African architecture, art, fabric, clothing and even hairstyles.

The patterns are called fractals—geometric designs that repeat in a pattern that gets smaller and smaller, sometimes to the point where you can't see it anymore, and sometimes into infinity (beyond where it can be counted).

You might have studied fractals at school or seen them in patterns. Maybe you've doodled some fractals: a big box, a slightly smaller box, an even smaller box, and more and more small boxes.

"Fractal geometry is everywhere, even in lines drawn in the sand," Eglash says. "It's the cycle of life. ... You see fractals in plants, in flow-

ers. Within the human lung are branches within branches."

During a year spent in Africa, Eglash saw fractals everywhere, including in baskets, fences and artwork. Entire villages were built using fractals: The houses, shaped like cylinders, were in a spiral pattern, at the center of which was a tiny village, Eglash says, "and that is the ancestors' village."

"Mathematicians didn't invent infinity until 1877. So they thought it was impossible that Africans could be using fractal geometry," he says, when, in fact, "they were using infinity long before."

Returning to the United States, Eglash wondered how he could teach what he had learned to African American children who didn't realize the role of math in their ancestry.

"There is a black mathematical heritage," he says. "... The attention to Ancient Egypt encourages the primitive view of sub-Saharan Africa. I wanted to show there are really sophisticated mathematical ideas that pre-date exposure to Europeans and are independent of Egyptians."

Eglash created computer software that teaches students about the mathematics used in making cornrows. "You can braid a mathematical idea into someone's hair and use the software to translate it into mathematics," he says.

■ Suppose you have 10 plaits (complex braids). How many degrees must you rotate each one to make a circle?

Answer: 36 (there are 360 degrees in a circle, and 10 x 36 = 360).



THE WASHINGTON POST

Eight-year-olds Leanna Pollicar, left, and Hannah Payopelin have their hair braided. Ron Eglash, who teaches science and technology studies at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, uses hairstyling as a tool for teaching African American children about the mathematical concepts that are part of their heritage.

■ Suppose you have 36 plaits. By how many degrees must you rotate each one to make a circle?

Answer: 10 degrees.

As the kids work on these problems, Eglash reaches over the shoulder of Grace Hopkins, 8, pointing to the computer. "It probably needs to be smaller than 100 but bigger than 60," he advises. "Make the braid smaller. Twenty-two (degrees) is still too many. Click on the first plait and make the rotation a little less."

Grace does as he suggests, and the computer model suddenly gets a tighter cornrow hairstyle. And this complicated lesson in math has been transformed into something real.

Pit crews play important role in NASCAR races

By BONNIE BERKOWITZ
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

During a NASCAR race, cars fly around the track for hundreds of laps at nearly 200 miles per hour. But some of the most important action takes place while the cars are standing still.

Each car makes as many as 12 pit stops during a race, and the average number is six to eight. Races can be won or lost depending on how fast a pit crew gets its driver back on the track.

A successful pit stop should take less than 13 seconds. During that time, pit crews usually change all four tires, fill the tank with gas and make minor adjustments to the car. Very late in a race, cars might stop for a short pit stop called a "Splash 'n' Go," which means they just get enough fuel to finish the race.

NASCAR Trivia

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

More than half of 6- to 18-year-olds say they enjoy NASCAR races, but only 7.7 percent have been to one, according to a recent survey.

Pit crews train very much like football players. In fact, some of them used to play football. Michael Lepp, who trains pit crew members for Joe Gibbs Racing's three teams, tries to recruit former athletes and hopes maybe he'll get some former Washington Redskins someday.

Once an athlete decides to join a pit crew, it takes two to three years of training for him to be skilled enough to work a Sprint Cup race, NASCAR's highest level.

"In the past, it would be, 'Who wants to pit the car this weekend?'" said Lepp, who trains

crews for drivers Tony Stewart, Kyle Busch and Denny Hamlin. "Now, they're becoming a criti-

cal part of how you win or lose the race."

That's because new NASCAR

rules make the cars more similar to each other, so that huge teams with lots of money can't just buy

faster cars than smaller teams. Speedy pit stops are one way to make a car finish faster.

In fact, near the end of a race near Phoenix on April 11, leaders Busch and Carl Edwards pitted at the same time. Busch's crew finished faster, and he won the race.

Like football players, pit crews watch film of their past performances to see what they did well and what they need to improve before the next race. They train four days a week, 2 1/2 hours a day. Much of that time is spent outside practicing pit stops. They also lift weights, run and ride bikes so they'll be in peak shape.

Many pit crew members also have other jobs in the race shop. For example, Heath Cherry spends about half his time as a rear-tire carrier for Hamlin's No. 11 FedEx car and about half working with the companies that sponsor race cars.

"Working a pit crew gives you that team atmosphere," said Cherry, who played linebacker at Wofford College in South Carolina. "We learn how to work together and jell, just like a football team."



WWW.ARMY.MIL

Joe Nemechek's O1 Army NASCAR pit crew leaps into action mid-way through the Dickies 500 at the Texas Motor Speedway, changing four tires and filling the car's fuel cell. Nemechek finished the race in 18th place Nov. 5.

It's the pits

By BONNIE BERKOWITZ
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Here's what each member of a pit crew does.

Gas-can man: He carries cans of fuel to the car and fills the tank. Physical requirements: He must be strong. A full 12-gallon gas can weighs

85 to 90 pounds.

Catch-can man: NASCAR rules require someone to hold an empty can under a special overflow pipe attached to the car's gas tank, called a fuel cell, to collect gas that overflows. (Gas doesn't stop going in when the fuel cell is full like it does on our cars at the gas pump.) Physical requirements: Height is more important than strength. He needs long arms so

he can reach around and make any needed adjustments on the car's frame while he's holding the catch can.

Front-tire carrier and rear-tire carrier: They each carry a tire to the car's right side, align its five holes to the studs on the axles, carry the old one back to the wall, then do the same thing again on the left side. Physical requirements: Tire carriers need strength — tires (mounted on

rims) for most races weigh 75 pounds each — and hand-eye coordination to line up the holes quickly. Crew members also must be quick on their feet.

Front-tire changer and rear-tire changer: The tire changer carries an air gun that removes the five lug nuts from the old tire and tightens the lug nuts on the new tire. (Lug nuts are glued to the new rims so he doesn't have to carry any in his

pocket.) The front-tire changer also pulls the old front tires off the car, but the jack man pulls the old rear tires off. Physical requirements: Hand-eye coordination is the most important quality. The fastest tire changers can remove all five lug nuts in less than a second and can secure the new ones in 1.1 to 1.2 seconds.

Jack man: He carries the roughly 40-pound jack, shoves

it under the side of the car and in one pump lifts the car high enough for the tires to be changed. He then runs to the other side and does the same thing. He also pulls the rear tires off the car. Physical requirements: The jack man is the strongest guy on the crew, usually weighing more than 200 pounds. He needs good hand-eye coordination, too, to make sure the jack is positioned under the stud on the side of the car.

Review: 'The Calder Game'

By MARYLOU TOUSIGNANT
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

"The Calder Game,"
by Blue Balliett

Ages 9-12

Fans of Blue Balliett's earlier

art-world mysteries — "Chasing Vermeer" and "The Wright 3" — will be delighted to know she's back. This time it's with a mystery set on the grounds of Blenheim Palace near Oxford, England.

Calder, Petra and Tommy — Balliett's trio of pre-teen sleuths — are back, too. After a visit to an Alexander Calder art

exhibit at home in Illinois, 12-year-old Calder Pillay (yes, his first name and famous sculptor's last name are the same) travels to the English village of Woodstock, which, as luck (and mystery writers) would have it, has just been given an Alexander Calder sculpture by an anonymous donor.

The artwork isn't liked by everyone, however. And when it mysteriously disappears, young Calder goes looking for it. And when he disappears, Petra and Tommy travel to England to help solve the deepening mystery.

As in Balliett's earlier books, Brett Helquist's illustrations bring the story to life. And, as you'll discover in the final pages, they even contribute to "the game."



THE WASHINGTON POST

The mobile by Alexander Calder hangs from the East Building atrium of the National Gallery of Art in Washington.



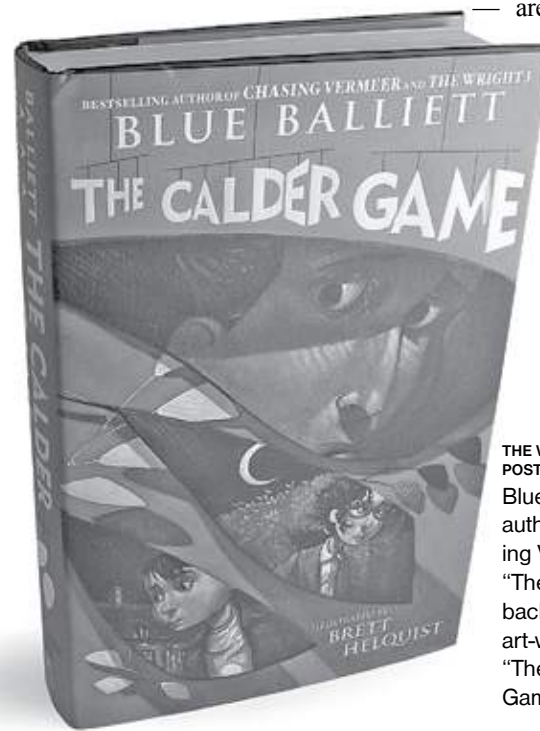
THE WASHINGTON POST

In addition to sculpture, Alexander Calder painted, made toys and designed carpets. In the 1930s he created a new art form known as mobiles.

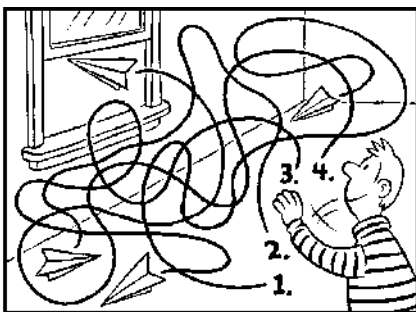
Who is Alexander Calder?

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Alexander Calder (1898-1976), the son of an artist and a painter, not surprisingly was a multimedia artist. In addition to sculpture, he painted, made toys and designed carpets. In the 1930s he created a new art form known as mobiles. You can see one in the National Gallery of Art's East Building in Washington. (Hint: Enter building. Look up.)



THE WASHINGTON POST
Blue Balliett, author of "Chasing Vermeer" and "The Wright 3," is back with another art-world mystery, "The Calder Game."



A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY! See if you can guess which paper plane made it to the outside world. You only get one try.

Answer: The fourth plane.

IN A SPIN!

THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY, I WAS, LIKE, 17 YEARS OLD. NEXT YEAR, I'LL BE, LIKE, 20 YEARS OLD. HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?



His birthday is on Dec. 31. So, the day before yesterday he was 17; yesterday he was 18; this year he'll be 19; and next year 20.

THE 'R' PYRAMID! As you move down the word pyramid shown here, each word contains the same letters as the word above it, plus a new letter. We give you all the R's. Here are some hints from the top down:

1. A chess piece (symbol).
2. In reference to. (Abbr.).
3. A primary color.
4. One who is ill-mannered.
5. In a lower position.
6. To break apart.
7. Something that lasts.
8. To be harshly criticized.

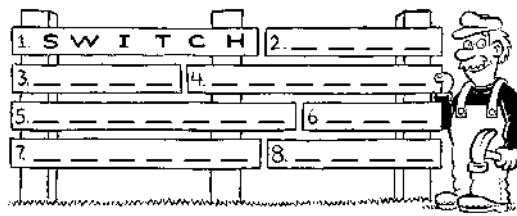


Answers: 1. Rook 2. Re 3. Red 4. Rude 5. Under 6. Sunder 7. Endures 8. Censured.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

DON'T GET 'BORED' SOLVING THIS ONE!



Our Junior Whirl carpenter built this fence using only "word planks" that ended with the word BOARD. The following hints should help you nail down the answers:

1. Used with telephones (given).
2. A place to advertise.
3. Right-side of ship.
4. Found around water.
5. Old-time cars had two.
6. Computers need them.
7. College professor's headgear.
8. Used in the Old West.

Answers: 1. Switchboard 2. Billboard 3. Starboard 4. Oiling board 5. Flaming board 6. Keyboard 7. Mortarboard 8. Buckboard

©2008 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Strange BUT TRUE

By SAMANTHA WEAVER

■ It was American author and philosopher Eric Hoffer who made the following sage observation: "We lie the loudest when we lie to ourselves."

■ You probably know that certain species of snakes can grow to enormous size, with the longest specimens reaching upwards of 30 feet in length and the heaviest weighing more than 400 pounds. Kind of makes you wonder what these monstrous serpents eat—and you might be surprised. According to reports, a pet python named Houdini swallowed a queen-size electric blanket. Even more amazingly, after a two-hour operation, the snake lived!

■ Interestingly, reports indicate that Alaskans eat twice as much ice cream per capita than the rest of the nation.

■ It would seem that even powerful dictators can succumb to the pull of Hollywood. Il Duce, Benito Mussolini, was an extra in the film "The Eternal City," and Cuba's longtime dictator Fidel Castro had a bit part in a movie called "Holiday in Mexico."

■ And speaking of film, the world's largest camera is located in Southern California, at El Toro Marine Corps Air Station, which is no longer in use for military purposes. An entire hangar building, originally used to house airplanes, was sealed to ensure that no light entered except through a single pinhole in the side of the building. Unsurprisingly, the world's largest camera was used to take the world's largest photograph. A made-to-order canvas was suspended within the erstwhile hangar and coated with a substance to make it light-sensitive. After a 35-minute exposure, the canvas was developed, creating a photo 3,375 square feet in size.

■ Those in the fruit industry say that a fully ripe cranberry is bouncy and can be dribbled like a basketball.

Thought for the Day: "A good novel tells us the truth about its hero; but a bad novel tells us the truth about its author." —G.K. Chesterton

© 2008 King Features Synd., Inc.

DICK TRACY'S MAGIC MAZE

ROGUES GALLERY

AVSQNKIFDDAXVTQ
OMPRUNEFACEJHFC
AYWUSEYEBBRPNLJ
HFDDBZXHLVTRQOMK
IHFDDBYZPILYWDVW
STRQFOODLESAYA
NTLFKAITIARYEOL
HFODCLRTABZEIIBC
XCWPYOVAUEKKGGE
SRQOSZNLULUM8UIH
KJIHFEDFDCB8RBT

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

88 Keys Coffyhead Oodles The Claw
B-B Eyes Cueball Pruneface Tiger Lily
Big Boy Duke Rughead Zola
Clara Oily Spots

©2008 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

GO FIGURE!

by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

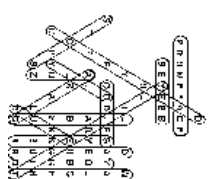
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	÷		+		11
+		+		+	
	÷		+		9
+		x		x	
	x		+		11
19		25		13	

1 2 2 3 5 6 7 8 9

© 2008 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

13	25	19
11	1	5
x	x	+
6	9	3
+	+	+
11	7	2
+	+	8

Little dog, big appetite

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I have a 7-month-old Chihuahua that treats each meal like it was her last. "Janie" has been like this since I got her at six weeks. She never chews her food, and eats so fast that she chokes. I have had to "Heimlich" her on several occasions to make her cough up the food in order to breathe. I have tried soaking her food to make it soft, but she still gobbles it down. I feed her in another room from my two other dogs so she won't try to run to their food bowl after she gets through. Is there any way to stop her from eating so quickly? —Hiding the Food Bowl in Crossett, Ark.



inedible object in its food bowl that is too large to swallow—like a baseball. More than one object is fine, too. The idea is to make Janie work to get at her food. You could also spread her dry kibble around a large area so she has to run around eating a bit at a time.

You should continue to feed Janie separately from the other dogs and supervise her mealtimes. I also recommend bringing up this issue with her vet to see if any health issues are causing her to gulp food.

DEAR HIDING: Gulping food and eating too fast can be problematic for both dogs and owners. In addition to the potential for choking on larger pieces of food, dogs that eat too much at once can also develop a severe gastric issue called "bloat" or GVD (gastric-dilation volvulus) that must be treated immediately by a veterinarian. So dogs with this tendency have to be watched closely by their owners, not just at feeding time but throughout the day, as they will hunt for a food source between meals.

One recommended way to slow down a gulping dog is to place an

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

© 2008 King Features Synd., Inc.

Dream it, create it, use it!

Turn used stuff in your recycle bin into something new. Here are two great toys made from throwaways that your whole family can make together in just minutes for hours of fun. But before you begin, challenge your kids with this riddle:

"What is round, hovers on a thin cushion of air, spins like a top and even plays music at the touch of a button?" Give Up? It's a CD, the basis for the following balloon-powered hovercraft and spinning-top toys.

BALLOON-POWERED HOVERCRAFT

Remove the twist-nozzle top from an empty plastic mustard or household white glue bottle. Wash and dry the entire top.

Using a low-temp glue gun, attach the base of the nozzle top over the hole of an old CD you wish to recycle. Let dry.

Pull the lip of a medium-size balloon over the nozzle portion only and tape it in place with electrical tape. Be sure at this step to create an airtight seal or the toy won't work.

To play with your new hovercraft, twist the nozzle into the open position. Put the opposite side of the CD up to your mouth and blow through the hole to inflate the balloon. When the balloon is inflated, quickly twist the nozzle into the "closed" position to trap the air inside the balloon.

Place the CD—balloon side up—on a flat surface such as a large table or smooth floor. Twist the top open, give it a little push and, as the air in the balloon rushes out, watch it hover across the surface!

SHINY SPINNING TOP

Find a twist-nozzle top from



an 8-ounce bottle of household white glue. Twist it into the "open" position and poke it through the hole of another old CD you wish to recycle. Twist it into the "closed" position to secure the top to the CD. Give your top a spin on the tip of the nozzle.

For extra fun, decorate the toy with a wooden bead glued over the hole on the opposite side, and paint designs on the surface of that side of the CD for a kaleidoscope of color as it spins.

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

© 2008 Donna Erickson
Distributed by King Features Synd.



Life & Style

Cannes balances glamor with 'Blindness'

CANNES, France (AP)—Fernando Meirelles did boys with guns in "City of God" and murderous corporations in "The Constant Gardener."

With "Blindness," the opening night entry at the Cannes Film Festival, the Brazilian director exposes the world's ultimate savages: your friends and neighbors.

A terrifying fable about how low people might go to stay alive when a plague of blindness turns them into helpless internees, "Blindness" presents an unnerving reflection of real tragedy and bureaucratic heartlessness, from Hurricane Katrina to global food shortages to the cyclone in Myanmar, where the military government has severely restricted relief efforts.

"There are different kinds of blindness. There's 2 billion people that are starving in the world," Meirelles said in an interview Thursday, a day after the film's Cannes premiere. "This is happening. It doesn't need a catastrophe. It's happening, and because there isn't an event like Katrina, we don't see."

Opening in U.S. theaters Sept. 19, "Blindness" is adapted from the novel by Portuguese author Jose Saramago, winner of the Nobel Prize for literature.

The film chronicles the panic, disorder and barbarity that erupts after a contagion spreads "white blindness" throughout an unspecified city, with people's vision replaced by a milky cloud.

Victims are crammed into decrepit, filthy wards and left on their own, with no medical care. Scant food is provided, and trigger-happy soldiers gun down anyone they think might make a break for freedom, though all the afflicted can do is stumble about aimlessly.

The inmates include an eye doctor (Mark Ruffalo) and his wife (Julianne Moore), who inexplicably retains her sight but feigns blindness so she can accompany her husband into detention. Among their roommates are an old man (Danny Glover), a prostitute (Alice Braga), a thief (Don McKellar) and



Japanese actress Yoshino Kimura, American actress Julianne Moore and Brazilian actress Alice Braga, arrive to the opening night ceremony and the premiere of the film "Blindness," at the 61st International film festival in Cannes, southern France, on Wednesday, May 14, 2008. AP

a married couple (Yusuke Iseya and Yoshino Kimura).

While that group tries to maintain a degree of order, their neighbors in another ward declare themselves "Lord of the Flies"-style rulers, led by a man (Gael Garcia Bernal) with a gun and a willingness to let bullets fly blindly. His thugs take over the food supply and force the others to pay with jewelry, and later, with their women.

"The other day, I heard somebody say, 'It's inhuman. It's not human.' No, it is. The movie, it is about human beings, and how in a way, we're animals," Braga said. "If you're put in a situation, that's what would happen."

The action sinks to its most brutal in a gang-rape scene, which precipitates violent retribution and an unexpected

escape for some victims, who emerge into a city overrun by staggering, starving survivors, the blind literally leading the blind to scavenge for food.

Could so many people descend so completely into bestiality?

"Look at what happens in war, and how whole towns are raped," Moore said. "We have this idea that we've got it together, but you see what happens when there is a natural disaster. Things crumble. Things literally crumble. So the sense that, oh, we have secured this, we have taken care of this, we know how to do this. In fact, we're just a step away from chaos."

"We've seen food riots in Egypt, food riots in Sudan, food riots in Somalia, food riots in Haiti. Is that a test to see where we're going?" Glover said. "Do we have the political will worldwide

Jolie, pregnant with twins, stays cool at Cannes

CANNES, France (AP)—Angelina Jolie, pregnant with twins, has some secrets for staying serene at the Cannes Film Festival: get her partner, Brad Pitt, to baby-sit, and wear comfy shoes on the red carpet.

Jolie was at the festival Thursday to promote DreamWorks' animated "Kung Fu Panda." She'll be busy at Cannes, as she also stars in Clint Eastwood's "Changeling," which is also been shown.

But the mother of four—soon to be six—swears she's not working too hard.

"I'm sitting and talking a lot, and everybody's being very nice to me," Jolie told reporters. "If I was feeling too pregnant everybody said I didn't have to come."

The 32-year-old actress also confirmed that she's thinking about giving birth in France.

"I actually haven't completely decided, but we are certainly thinking of France," Jolie said. "It's a second language in our house. I'm still learning so I'm not going to attempt it here today, my rusty French. But our children are start-

ing to speak French, so being here is very good for them for their language."

She also revealed a red carpet beauty tip.

"I'm going to do a shoe ad right now—Cole Haan makes a shoe with a Nike sole, so I have a low heel with a Nike sole," she said.

While Jolie was being swarmed by photographers, Pitt was taking care of their children. He was joining her later for the "Kung Fu Panda" premiere.

"He's with our kids right now, but he'll get his suit on at the last minute, I'm sure," she said.

Jolie is the voice of an assertive tigress and martial arts maestro in "Kung Fu Panda," which also features the voices of Jack Black and Dustin Hoffman. The actress says she's not a fierce feline at home.

"I think I have a very even partner right now, and I think we're very balanced at home with our power-sharing," she said. "But I think every woman in some way is a tigress or would like to be."



American actress Angelina Jolie, center, poses with American actors Jack Black, left, and Dustin Hoffman at the photo call for the film "Kung Fu Panda" at the 61st International film festival in Cannes, southern France, on Thursday, May 15, 2008. AP

to come to grips with that?"

Meirelles said the depravity in the story could go even lower.

"I think the next step would be cannibalism. Rape? How can you go lower? There's no food, so it could turn to cannibalism."

The film also incorporates wickedly dark humor, including a zinger that could be interpreted as a jab at President Bush and U.S. milita-

rism after the Sept. 11 attacks.

"How lucky we are to have a leader with vision," one of Moore's charges remarks as she leads them through the horror of a city that has fallen apart.

"It has something to do, yeah, with the Bush administration," Meirelles said.

Amid the bedlam, glimmers of hope appear as the main char-

acters forge a clan and reclaim a piece of their humanity.

"Toward the end of 'Blindness,' they're reaching that point where they're redefining family and redefining civilization," said co-star McKellar, who also wrote the screenplay. "You give them time, and they would deal with it. If they were to remain blind, they would be all right."

LA jury convicts Hollywood private eye in racketeering case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Hollywood private investigator was convicted Thursday of federal racketeering and other charges for digging up dirt for his well-heeled clients to use in lawsuits, divorces and contract disputes against the rich and famous.

Anthony Pellicano, 64, was accused of wiretapping stars such as Sylvester Stallone and running the names of others, such as Garry Shandling and Kevin Nealon, through law enforcement databases to help clients in legal and other disputes.

Pellicano was found guilty of all but one of the 77 counts against him. He looked at the judge with his arms crossed and didn't react when verdicts were read.

"We went by the evidence," said Terri Winbush, forewoman of the 12-member jury. "There was a lot of evidence."

The jury found him guilty of racketeering and racketeering conspiracy, along with wiretapping, wire fraud, identity theft, conspiracy to intercept or use wire communications and manufacture or possession of a wiretapping device. He was acquitted of a charge of unauthorized computer access.

The jury also found four co-defendants guilty of a variety of charges.

The indictment charging Pellicano and his

supporting cast in February 2006 had Hollywood buzzing with speculation about who might be ensnared in the investigation and what secrets might be revealed.

Fourteen people were charged and seven, including film director John McTiernan and former Hollywood Records president Robert Pfeifer, have pleaded guilty to charges including perjury and conspiracy.

But the biggest power brokers with links to Pellicano, such as famed entertainment attorney Bert Fields, Paramount studio head Brad Grey and one-time superagent Michael Ovitz, insisted they didn't know about his methods and weren't charged.

Pellicano starred in the real-time court drama as a tough-talking gumshoe who valued loyalty

and secrecy as necessary virtues in his profession. He also acted as his own attorney but called only one witness and rarely raised objections.

The private eye decided against taking the stand to defend himself and kept true to his promise that he wouldn't betray the trust of his clients.

A number of dramas played out during the trial and cast a spotlight on the seamy side of Hollywood, detailing death threats, offers of murder and extramarital affairs.

Jurors watched as an uncomfortable Chris Rock testified about a model he believed was trying to shake him down. They saw a confounded Shandling study his name on a police records audit and a stoic Ovitz recount how he had hired Pellicano to find the source of negative news sto-

R. Kelly jury complete as sides argue racial makeup

CHICAGO (AP)—Jury selection was completed at R. Kelly's child pornography trial Thursday amid contentious exchanges between prosecutors and defense attorneys, who accused each other of trying to stack the panel along racial lines.

Of the 12 jurors who will open the case, eight are white and four are black. The four alternates include two blacks, one Hispanic and one white.

Defense attorneys objected several times as prosecutors used challenges to have several blacks dismissed from the jury pool.

"I think they're using these (challenges) to get rid of African Americans," said Sam Adam Sr., one of Kelly's attorneys. A little later, he complained that "they've used 50 percent of their challenges on African Americans."

Prosecutor Shauna Boller shot back, telling the judge that the defense had "used all six of their pre-emptories (preemptory challenges) on whites."

The R&B superstar is accused of videotaping himself having sex with a girl as young as 13 years old.

Among the six jurors chosen Thursday was a young woman who told Judge Vincent Gaughan that she had been raped, but could put the traumatic experience aside and hear the case fairly.

Defense attorneys later asked to have her dismissed based on the rape, but Gaughan rejected the request. "She looked at Mr. Kelly and said she could give him a fair trial," the judge said.

Kelly mostly kept his head down at one end of a conference table while potential jurors were questioned, scribbling notes on yellow index cards in his lap. Between the sessions with each juror, Kelly stretched his arms and yawned.

But when one young man, later named as an alternate, told the judge that pictures don't always reveal the whole truth of a situation, Kelly looked up and nodded his head in agreement.

Another of the people to sit on the jury was a 68-year-old man who immigrated from Communist Romania 38 years ago. He praised the U.S. justice system, saying he understood the accused are presumed innocent.

"The score sheet at the beginning of the trial—zero, zero," he said.

Country star Shania Twain and husband splitting up



TORONTO (AP)—Shania Twain and husband-producer Robert "Mutt" Lange are splitting up after 14 years of marriage. The 42-year-old Canadian country superstar and 59-year-old Lange married in 1993 and have a 6-year-old son named Eja. Her publicist provided no further details Thursday about the couple's breakup.

Lange and Twain, best known for her hits "Man! I Feel Like A Woman!" and "You're Still the One," recently opened a hiking trail on their property in New Zealand, fulfilling a pact designed to allay fears that wealthy foreigners were snapping up and sealing off the country's prime real estate.

Lange produced three of Twain's albums: 1995's "The Woman in Me," 1997's "Come on Over" and 2002's "Up!"

In this May 15, 2007 file photo, singer Shania Twain arrives at the 42nd Annual Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas. **AP**

Ford elected to Boston-based archaeological group

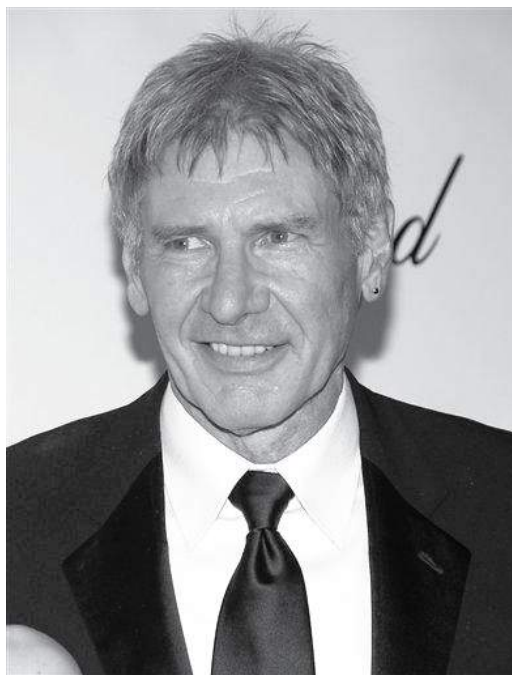
BOSTON (AP)—The actor who helped glamorize archaeology on the big screen is lending his star power to the Archaeological Institute of America.

Harrison Ford, who portrays the adventure-seeking Indiana Jones, has been elected to the Boston-based organization's board of directors. The group promotes archaeological excavation, research, education and preservation worldwide.

AIA President Brian Rose says Ford's Indiana Jones character has played a major part in stimulating interest in archaeological exploration.

The latest installment in the series, "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," opens in U.S. theaters May 22.

In this Feb. 24, 2008 file photo, Harrison Ford poses on the press line at the Elton John Oscar Party in West Hollywood, Calif. **AP**



Rapper DMX enters not guilty plea

PHOENIX (AP)—DMX has pleaded not guilty to felony drug possession and misdemeanor animal cruelty charges. A judge entered the plea for the musician-actor (real name: Earl Simmons) at a brief court hear-

ing Thursday. Simmons was late for court.

The 37-year-old rapper was indicted last week on 11 counts, including felony marijuana and paraphernalia possession and seven counts of misdemeanor

animal cruelty.

The charges stem from an August raid by authorities investigating if he was neglecting 12 pit bulls at his Phoenix home. Some were dehydrated and appeared to be underfed. Three were found buried in his back yard.

The rapper has had previous run-ins with the law. In June 2006, Scottsdale police cited him for carrying a concealed handgun outside a nightclub. He also served 70 days in jail in 2005 for violating his parole following a 2004 incident in which he posed as an undercover federal agent and crashed his sport utility vehicle through a security gate at Kennedy International Airport.

DMX recorded the 1999 hit single "Party Up (Up in Here)." His last album, "Year of the Dog ... Again," was released last year.



Rapper DMX leaves Maricopa County Superior Court after a hearing, Thursday, May 15, 2008, in Phoenix. **AP**

Daughter-in-law is fit to be tied by manipulative parents

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have overbearing in-laws who refuse to let their children, all of whom are in their 40s, live their own lives. We are constantly forced to spend time with them by means of manipulation. We have all been under their thumbs for so long that when the opportunity presented itself for our family to start a new life in a different state, we jumped at the chance.

We're now in the process of moving and becoming our own family. We are thrilled with the thought of seeing everyone on our terms, not having to worry about splitting holidays, feeling obligated on Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthdays, etc.—just finally breaking away and gaining our independence.

Here's the kicker: His parents have just told us they are going to purchase a "vacation" home in the state where we are moving! My husband doesn't have the heart to tell them it's not a good idea, so now I'm having second thoughts about going.

I am beside myself. Will it never end? I understand parents loving their children, but isn't there a time when you just let them grow up and have their own lives? I desperately need advice!

—READY TO EXPLODE IN THE ROCKIES

DEAR READY: Yes, it appears you do. Now that you realize that putting geographic distance between you and your in-laws isn't going to solve your problem, you and their son are going to have to learn how to tactfully draw the line and just say no.

I don't know how long you have been married, but the two of you should have set boundaries and declared some independence years ago. Running away from this problem was never the answer. I'm sure your in-laws love you, but developing your own family traditions is neither disrespectful of their feelings nor a personal rejection—it's healthy. And that's what I recommend you do.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating "Roger," a wonderful man, for about a year. Our relationship has been stressful at times, but overall we're happy together and in love. My problem is his dog, "Lucky." Lucky is a one-man dog who barely tolerates my presence.

Anytime I hug or kiss Roger in front of Lucky, the dog starts barking and growling. Sometimes Roger puts him outside or locks the door so we can be alone together, but he says doing so makes him feel guilty because Lucky "worships him" and wants to be wherever he is.

Lucky doesn't like me around, and I'm uncomfortable around him. Roger knows it and still insists that the dog be wherever he is, even when it means we can't be "romantic" because of all the barking. He sees nothing wrong with Lucky's behavior. I think it's aberrant. Any ideas?

—DOG'S A DAMPER, BOWIE, MD.

DEAR DOG'S A DAMPER: Yes. I think ROGER'S behavior is aberrant. If he loves you, he should be willing to consult an animal behavior specialist for help in re-educating his dog and curbing his dog's aggression. As it stands, Lucky is a danger to you and anyone else who might enter his territory. Unless Roger is willing to act, you and he not only will have no privacy, you have no future.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: *Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet*, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

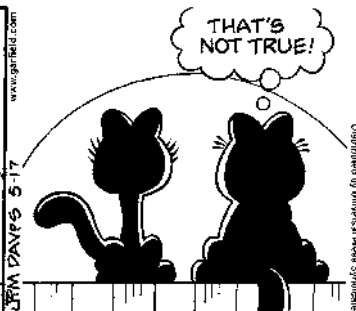
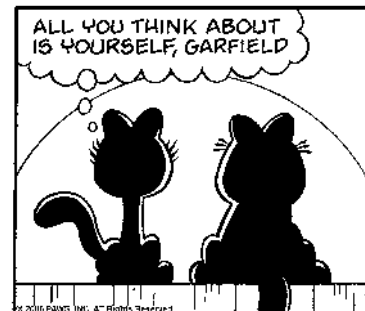
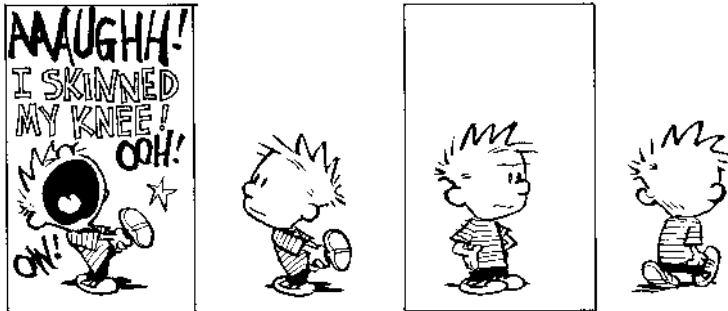
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

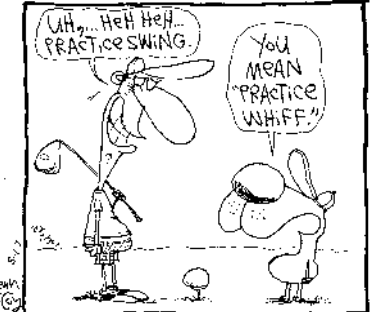
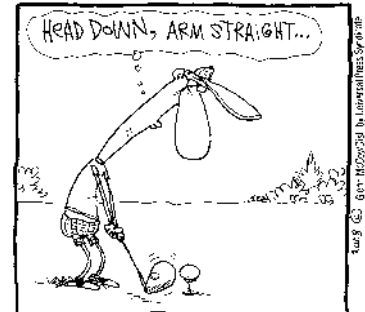
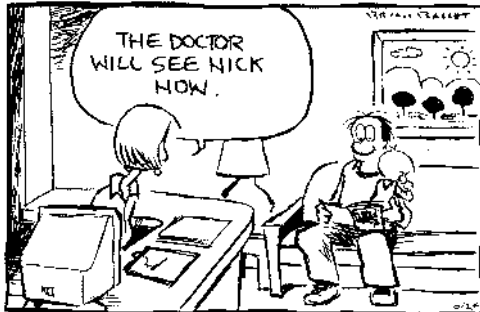


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Vacationing of green
4 Garbage carrier
8 "Desire Under the —"
12 Bogey beater
13 Addition-ally
14 Two-way time
16 Think (over)
17 Pelvic bones
18 Curriculum
21 Scuttle
22 Bleacher-ites' cry
23 Burdened
26 Play-ground game
27 Hiatus
30 Concept
31 Silent
32 "You've got —"
33 A billion years
34 "The Simpsons" network

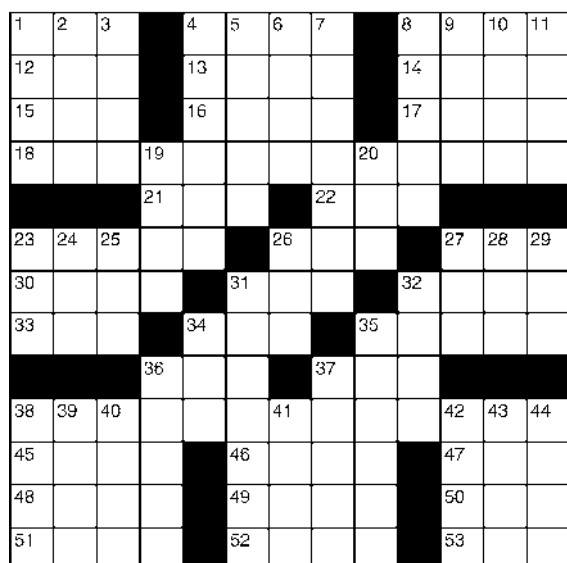
DOWN

1 Oil-cartel acronym
2 Gambling game
3 Woman of the Haus
4 Philistines' foe
5 Gave a hint
6 Scandi-navian city
7 Tungsten
8 Head of Hollywood
9 Hum-dinger
10 Hotel staffer
11 Dispatch
19 Actress Perlman
20 Succumb to gravity
23 False-hood
24 Big fuss
25 Lair
26 "Monkey suit"
27 Eight pts.
28 Have a bug
29 Thickness
31 Mid-May honorees
32 Waiter's handout
34 Tailor's concern
35 One-hour-photo sites
36 Japanese city
37 Triangular quick bread
38 Coaster
39 Agenda heading
40 Alkali neutral-izer
41 Canal zone?
42 Fixes the outcome
43 Santa's laundry woe
44 Coveter's emotion

Solution time: 27 mins.

M	A	D	S	P	A	M	A	I	Z	E
O	D	E	C	A	U	L	G	E	R	
S	A	C	L	G	H	T	B	E	E	R
E	G	O	F	R	U	I	T			
S	E	R	F	E	R	E	L	A	O	S
J	A	B	O	I	S	E	N	E	M	Y
F	L	I	G	H	T		D	O	G	
K	E	G	S	O	P	E	O	B	I	T
			S	N	O	R	T	E	M	U
L	I	G	H	T	E	A	R	G	A	T
A	D	O	R	E	M	I	A	A	G	O
B	O	O	S	T	S	L	Y	N	O	R

Yesterday's answer 5-17



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Andrea Corr, 34; Trent Reznor, 43; Enya, 47; Bob Saget, 52

Happy Birthday: You'll find solutions to your problems this year. A move or change of location will help you get ahead. Expanding your interests will lead to making new friends. This is an exciting year of expansion, if you don't take a pass on all the opportunities that cross your path. Your numbers are 5, 17, 22, 27, 39, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Emotional matters are best left on the shelf until you have more time to evaluate what needs to be done. Patience isn't one of your fine qualities but, today, hold off, keep busy and avoid discussing anything important. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Someone you work with is likely to do something to aggravate you but, if you jump in and do your thing, you can take advantage of this opportunity to shine and impress the people who count. Accept the chance to get ahead. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Get out and do the things you enjoy. It's your liveliness that will win hearts. Travel plans should be in the works even if it is only a day trip. A unique opportunity will arise through someone you meet today. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will overreact to just about everything so the last thing you want to do is to overindulge in food or drink that might set you off or make you speak your mind. Keep things simple, cost efficient and low key. **



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): There is a profit to be made or a deal to be struck if you get involved in property or anything to do with your residence. An unusual opportunity to do something totally different will arise and you must take advantage of the situation. ****



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can get a lot accomplished at home if you put in a little elbow grease and fix up your surroundings. A love relationship will take on a new flavor that should make you happy and more content about the future. ****



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't act too quickly if it concerns money, work or your position in society. You need to slow down and make sure you are doing what's best. You can choose a direction that will suit your needs and stop anyone who is opposing you in his or her tracks. ***



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your emotions will be hard to control today. Don't let someone else's mood or actions turn your day into a struggle. This is not the day to spend on others or give in to pressure. ***



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may be craving excitement but, before you leap into unfamiliar territory, consider the consequences. Expect someone to cut you short if you try to avoid your responsibilities. ***



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Things are heating up in a good way, personally and professionally. Make your move, do your thing, close a deal or invest

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

in something interesting and you will be ready to have a little fun with family, your lover or a good friend. ****



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Things are looking up where home, family and finances are concerned. A new way of doing things will lead to financial gains. Talks with loved ones will help you sort out what you can do to compensate for the past and build a brighter future. *****



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Discuss the future along with your feelings and you will find a solution. You can make amends if you prove your loyalty to an agreement made some time ago. Building trust will be what's required. Revisit someone and something you still want to pursue. ***



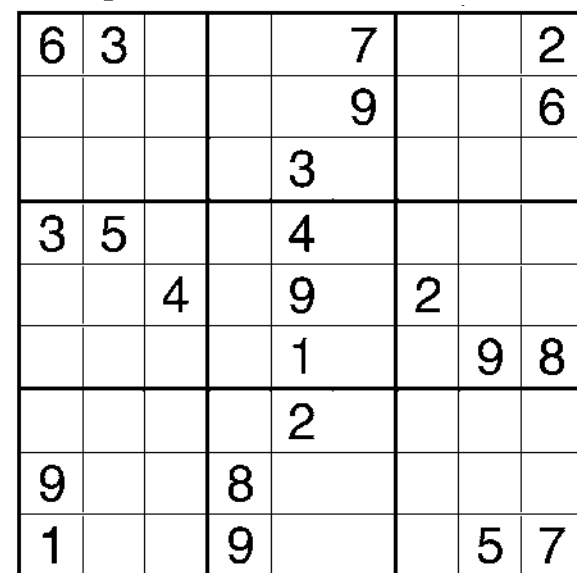
Birthday Baby: You are open, kind-hearted, industrious, patient and persistent. You are forward thinking and creative with your pursuits.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

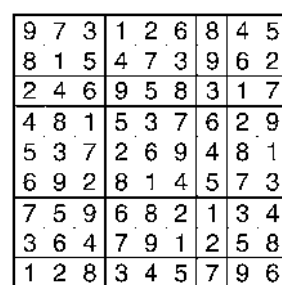


Difficulty Level ★★★★★

5/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The letter letters spell the Wonderword.

BOATS

Solution: 7 letters



© 2008 Universal Press Syndicate. www.wonderword.com 5/17

Ahoy, Alarm, Blade, Bridge, Buoy, Club, Coast, Cran-, Dash, Deck, Dock, Drift, Drive, Engine, Ferry, Filter, Fishing, Flag, Flares, Float, Hands, Hang, Hats, Head, Helm, Horse, Insurance, Jets, Jobs, Keel, License, Lock, Lost, Mass, Mast, Paddle, Port, Power, Radio, Role, Roof, Ropes, Rudder, Safe, Sail, Scow, Seashore, Seats, Ship, Show, Shaps, Steer, Stern, Switch, Tube, Wave, Wheel, Work

Yesterday's Answer: Shopping

© 2008 Universal Press Syndicate. www.wonderword.com 5/17

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	\$13.00
2nd position	\$5.00
Succeeding positions	\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

LOI'MVE U

© 2008 Whatzit? Inc. All rights reserved. Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Find today's solution in this section

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water \$210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

Dan Dan Village. Panoramic view of Lau Lau Bay, large comfortable home with rooftop patios on 2nd and 3rd floor, unfurnished, walled and gated, 5 bedroom/3 bath, safe, secure, private. Call 322-0268. View by appointment.

LOST PASSPORT

Name : Hwang, Won Gi
D.O.B : Nov. 4, 1973
Contact No. : 235-9272

www.saipantribune.com

WHATZIT Solution: I'm in love with you

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

2 Storey home, newly renovated, 5bdr, 3bth, 2 car gr, water tank, near Dandan Elem. Sch, \$800 or better offer. Call 287-5744

FOR RENT - COMMERCIAL

2 Commercial Space for Rent. One 2000 sq.ft. & One 1000 sq.ft. Garapan area across Treasure Island Game Club. Contact Emil De Belen @ 483-3645/233-5100

GARAGE/YARD SALE

Leaving The Island Sale. Everything must go! Chalan Kanoa beside the cemetery across Bigboys. May 17-18 & 24-25, 2008. Call 235-4975.

The Saipan Tribune now offers

Classified Ads Super Saver Package

for Print and Online Editions

A complete 7-day run for car sales, employment, garage sales, apartment rentals, announcements, lost and found, business services, and more...

3-LINER AD

\$25

3-LINER AD W/ PHOTO

\$45

5-LINER AD

\$35

5-LINER AD W/ PHOTO

\$55

Get results. Advertise now!

Call now at 235-2769 for more details.

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



Barkley says he'll pay huge gambling debt

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Charles Barkley acknowledged he owes a \$400,000 gambling debt to a Las Vegas Strip casino and promised Thursday to repay it after a prosecutor said the retired NBA star faced criminal charges. "My mistake," Barkley said in an interview at a pro-am golf tournament in Hoover, Ala. "I'm not broke, and I'm going to take care of it."

Barkley was responding to comments by Clark County District Attorney David Roger, who said prosecutors would file a criminal complaint if he did not pay the debt cited by the Wynn Las Vegas resort.

"He'll have an opportunity like anybody else to make restitution to the hotel," Roger said.

The casino alleged in a civil complaint filed Wednesday in a Nevada state court and first reported by the Las Vegas Sun that Barkley failed to repay four \$100,000 casino markers, or loans, received last Oct. 18 and 19.

"To date, and despite repeated demands, Barkley has refused to repay the \$400,000," the complaint said.

In a radio interview with sports station WJOX in Birmingham, Ala., Barkley repeatedly blamed himself for letting the debt lapse.

He told radio interviewers and a reporter at the golf tournament that the debt stemmed from a wager on the 2008 Super Bowl. He did not explain why Wynn alleged the loans were made in October.

"I've been gambling 20 years. I've never had this happen before," the 45-year-old Barkley told WJOX. "It's my fault I let the time lapse. I screwed up."

Barkley, now a basketball analyst for Turner Network Television, denied any personal financial problems, and said the casino didn't call him before filing the complaint.

"All they had to do is call and say, 'Hey, you owe us this money,'" he said.

A Wynn Las Vegas spokeswoman did not immediately respond to Barkley's comments. A hotel official earlier declined comment on the court case, citing ongoing litigation.

Barkley could be granted up to six months to pay if he agrees to the standard district attorney's office restitution program, bad check unit chief Bernie Zadrowski said. He would be responsible for the \$400,000 plus a 10 percent program fee totaling \$40,000.

Roger said that if the case remains unresolved, as many as four felony theft or four felony bad check charges could be filed. The possible penalty for each theft conviction is one to 10 years in state prison. A conviction on a felony bad check charge could carry a one- to four-year term.

Barkley played 16 NBA seasons for the Philadelphia 76ers, Phoenix Suns and Houston Rockets. He was named league MVP in 1993 and was an 11-time NBA All-Star. Barkley also played on the USA Olympic "Dream Team" in 1992 and 1996.

Barkley has made no secret of his gambling over the years. He estimated during a May 2006 interview with ESPN that he'd gambled away about \$10 million over the years.

"Do I have a gambling problem? Yeah, I do have a gambling problem," Barkley said. "But I don't consider it a problem because I can afford to gamble."

He said he never bet on basketball, and only bet in casinos. He called it a bad habit, but said he intended to continue.

Ginobili, Duncan help Spurs force Game 7



SAN ANTONIO (AP)—The San Antonio Spurs' Big Three came through. Now they have to win one on the road to keep their title defense alive. Manu Ginobili scored 25 points, Tim Duncan had 20 points and 15 rebounds, and Tony Parker added 15 points in the Spurs' 99-80 victory over the New Orleans Hornets in Game 6 on Thursday night.

The win forced a seventh game in the Western Conference semifinals on Monday in New Orleans. Home teams are 20-1 in the second round.

Chris Paul led the Hornets with 21 points and Tyson Chandler scored 14. David West had 10 points before leaving the game early in the fourth quarter after apparently aggravating a back injury.

The aging defending champions and the injured Hornets now get three days of rest before playing Game 7.

"I have confidence," Parker said. "We've won a lot of big games on the road."

Despite the closeness of the series, Game 6, like the five before it, was won by double digits. It was also won, like those before it, in the third quarter, when the Spurs outscored the Hornets 20-12.

"I don't know what to say," Paul said. "That third quarter was ugly."

The Spurs took the lead for good after Parker's jumper with 4:27 left in the first quarter broke a 17-all tie. They led by as many as 24.

The Spurs hit 11 of 21 3-pointers, led by six from Ginobili. The Hornets had just two 3s. But the Hornets had 48 points in the paint to just 28 from the Spurs.

The Spurs shot 49 percent from the field (38-of-77) to the Hornets' 41 percent (33-of-80) and outrebounded them 45-40. The Spurs had 28 assists and the Hornets had 13.

"Thank God we get to go back to New Orleans for Game 7," Paul said.

The Spurs came out with desperate energy, shooting 71 percent in the first quarter. They led by as many as 13 in the opening period after Bruce Bowen's 3-pointer made it 36-23. The Spurs took a 36-24 lead into the second quarter.

In the second period it was the Hor-



nets who heated up—albeit to a lesser extent. Paul scored 10 points in the quarter, though Ginobili countered with three 3s.

The Spurs maintained a double-digit lead early in the second period before the Hornets started chipping away.

Chandler's dunk off an alley-oop pass from Paul brought New Orleans within 46-41 with 5:35 to play. The Hornets got within 55-49 and the Spurs were up 58-51 at halftime.

In the third—the quarter that has been pivotal in just about every game in this series - the Hornets got into quick foul trouble. Paul picked up consecutive offensive fouls, his third and fourth, and West picked up his second and third, all in a span of 1:05.

Then West picked up his fourth foul and, visibly upset about it, also got a technical with 8:44 to play.

West did not score again in the quarter, but Paul kept his composure, hitting another layup and jumper and feeding Chandler for two more dunks.

After Chandler's second slam, which brought the Hornets within 71-63, they didn't score for the last 4:44 of the period and the Spurs pulled away.

Duncan sank a shot over Chandler, then hit a layup and pumped his fist after Ime Udoka blocked Paul's layup attempt. Duncan was fouled but couldn't convert the three-point play.

It didn't matter. The Spurs were firmly in control and Ginobili's back-to-back 3s to start the fourth quarter gave San Antonio an 84-63 lead and put away the game. With 10:11 left in the game, West left the court after aggravating a back injury.

West, who played with back pain in Game 5, fell to the floor after being picked from behind by Spurs forward Robert Horry, who was called for an offensive foul. Laying face down on the floor, West put his left arm behind him and rested it on his lower back before going to the locker room.

San Antonio Spurs guard Manu Ginobili, left, of Argentina, goes up for a shot as New Orleans Hornets forward David West defends during the first quarter in Game 6 of an NBA Western Conference semifinal basketball series, Thursday, May 15, 2008, in San Antonio.

AP

Former Patriots assistant can't recall Walsh talk



NEW YORK (AP)—Former New England assistant coach Brian Daboll told the NFL he doesn't remember speaking with Matt Walsh about the St. Louis Rams' walkthrough Walsh attended the day before the 2002 Super Bowl.

Even if Daboll and New England's former video assistant did speak about it, "it would not be a violation of NFL rules," the league said Thursday.

Walsh met with NFL commissioner Roger Goodell on Tuesday about videotaping procedures used by the Patriots. Walsh said during the meeting that he had no knowledge of that walkthrough being videotaped as had been reported by the Boston Herald the day before this year's Super Bowl, Goodell said.

On Wednesday, the Herald apologized for a story that said the Patriots videotaped the walkthrough before the 2002 Super Bowl. In the apology, the Herald said, "We now know that this report was false, and that no tape of the walkthrough ever existed."

Walsh told Goodell that Daboll, now the quarterbacks coach with the

New York Jets, approached him later, NFL attorney Gregg Levy said Tuesday. Walsh said he told Daboll that running back Marshall Faulk was returning kicks and described the Rams' use of tight ends in their formations. Daboll did not mention such a conversation when he was first interviewed by NFL officials about the walkthrough, Levy said.

Daboll was interviewed again Wednesday by the NFL's security department, the league said in a statement.

"He has no recollection of a conversation with Matt Walsh about the Rams' walk-through practice," the league said. "Even if such a conversation occurred, it would not be a violation of NFL rules."

The statement said that Walsh, other members of the Patriots video department, members of the Rams video department and others preparing for the Super Bowl were authorized to be in the stadium.

"Mr. Walsh told the commissioner that he was wearing Patriots' attire at the time and did not conduct himself in a clandestine manner," the NFL said. "He said that he saw Rams employees while he was there and also was on the

sidelines. He stated clearly to the commissioner that nobody from the Patriots requested or directed him to observe or report on the Rams' walk-through."

The Patriots won that Super Bowl, 20-17.

Meanwhile, Mike Martz, head coach of the Rams in that game, issued a statement expressing surprise.

"I was stunned at Matt Walsh's allegation that he was on the sideline in New England Patriots apparel during our walk-thru," Martz, now San Francisco's offensive coordinator, said Thursday. "I find that insulting, disturbing and a slap in the face to both our team security and NFL security, who both do outstanding jobs. I promise you that if he was on the sideline, he was not in New England Patriots apparel because he would have been identified."

"The whole issue is based on statements made by Matt Walsh, and I think we have to understand that."

Martz also said he spoke with Goodell on Wednesday and "was very satisfied" with the league's efforts to investigate the situation as it related to the 2002 Super Bowl.

"I'm very confident that there was no impropriety. I believed (Patriots coach) Bill Belichick when he said there wasn't and I took that at face value."

Daboll issued a statement Tuesday saying, "I have cooperated with the league's investigation and was completely truthful and forthcoming. The league has requested to speak to me again. In light of this request, I will not comment further other than to say that I have been and will continue to be completely truthful, cooperative, and forthcoming with the league."

During his news conference Tuesday after speaking with Walsh, Goodell said when asked if he considered the Spygate investigation closed, "As I stand before you today, and having met with Matt Walsh and more than 50 other people, I don't know where else I would turn."

After the Patriots' season-opener against the Jets last September, the NFL confiscated tapes from a Patriots employee who recorded the Jets' defensive signals. Belichick was fined \$500,000 and the team was fined \$250,000 and stripped of its 2008 first-round draft choice.

Yankees slump into last place in AL East



ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—The

New York Yankees dropped into last place in the American League's East Division on Thursday as the surprising Tampa Bay Rays downed the Bronx Bombers 5-2.

Rays pitcher Scott Kazmir sparked in his first start since agreeing to a lucrative contract extension, allowing just three singles in six scoreless innings.

Tampa Bay, which joined MLB in 1998, has been alone atop the East standings for three consecutive days for the first time. The Rays have captured six of seven series in building the best record in the AL.

Royals 8, Tigers 4

In Kansas City, Missouri, the home side completed another three-game sweep of Detroit.

Jose Guillen homered and drove in three runs for the Royals, while Gil Meche pitched seven solid innings.

Kansas City won its season-best fourth straight game and improved to 6-0 this season against Detroit, which has lost four straight while falling into last in the AL Central.

White Sox 4, Angels 3

In Anaheim, California, Jim Thome hit a go-ahead RBI single in the ninth inning as Chicago edged Los Angeles.

Catcher A.J. Pierzynski's RBI double capped a three-run second inning against Angels pitcher and former teammate Jon Garland.

Indians 4, Athletics 2

In Cleveland, the home side downed Oakland despite seeing its streak of innings without conceding a run ended at 44 1-3.

An unearned run against Aaron Laffey, caused by his own throwing error, ended the scoreless streak in the second.

Blue Jays 3, Twins 2, 11 innings

In Minneapolis, pinch-hitter Joe Inglett sliced a two-out, bases-loaded single through the infield in the 11th inning, giving Toronto a three-game sweep of Minnesota.

Scott Rolen started the 11th with a double into the right-field corner that was almost caught. Lyle Overbay was walked intentionally with two outs, and then pinch-hitter Gregg Zaun drew a walk to load the bases.

Nationals 1, Mets 0

In Phoenix, backed by Stephen Drew's career-high four hits, Brandon Webb became a nine-game winner when the Arizona Diamondbacks defeated the Colorado Rockies to complete a three-game sweep.

Webb (9-0) has won his first nine starts, the most since San Diego's Andy Hawkins won his first 10 in 1985, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. Webb has won 11 straight starts dating to last September.

Brandon Lyon pitched out of a base-loaded, no-out jam in the ninth for his 12th save in 14 chances, and his 11th in a row.

Arizona manager Bob Melvin lifted Webb with one out in the eighth after Holliday singled to make it 5-3. He threw 111 pitches and allowed three runs on six hits.

Mets 1, Nationals 0

In New York, Willie Harris' diving catch in the ninth saved the Nationals, who got a fantastic pitching performance from Jason Bergmann.

Washington won an unlikely duel between Bergmann and Mike Pelfrey, who carried a no-hit bid into the seventh. Harris' bunt set up Felipe Lopez's sacrifice fly in the eighth, helping the Nationals take three of four at Shea Stadium.

Pelfrey (2-4) held Washing-



Tampa Bay Rays' Akinori Iwamura follows through on a swing during a third-inning at-bat, on which he walked, in the Rays' 5-2 win in a baseball game against the New York Yankees on Thursday, May 15, 2008, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

ton hitless until Boone's lead-off single in the seventh. He allowed one run and three hits in 7 2-3 innings, the longest outing of his career.

Dodgers 7, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Andruw Jones, Jeff Kent and Gary Bennett homered during a six-run seventh inning, leading Chad Billingsley and the Dodgers past Milwaukee.

After Jones and Kent hit solo shots, Bennett capped the burst with a three-run homer.

Billingsley (3-5) didn't allow a hit until Brewers starter Ben Sheets, a career .078 hitter, singled with two outs in the fifth. Billingsley gave up three hits and struck out five.

Pirates 11, Cardinals 5

In St. Louis, pinch-hitter Jason Bay's three-run homer off Jason Isringhausen snapped an eighth-inning tie and capped Pittsburgh's rally from an early four-run deficit.

Nate McLouth added his 11th

homer for the Pirates, who outscored the sagging Cardinals 10-0 the last five innings to take two of three in the series.

Isringhausen (1-5) was demoted from the closer's role last week and was serving as the set-up man for Ryan Franklin, but ended up with his sixth blown save in 17 chances.

Cubs 4, Padres 0

Ryan Dempster struck out a career-high 12 and hit a go-ahead single against Greg Maddux during a four-run fifth

inning at Chicago, leading the Cubs over the Padres.

Jim Edmonds singled in his debut with the Cubs, who won three of four from the team with the worst record in the major leagues (15-27). NL Central-leading Chicago has won six of seven.

Dempster (5-1) allowed six hits in 8 1-3 innings and walked one, leaving after 115 pitches. He retired 15 straight batters after a first-inning single by Brian Giles, who had three hits.

Astros 8, Giants 7

In San Francisco, Lance Berkman splashed his major league-leading 15th home run into McCovey Cove, breaking a ninth-inning tie and helping Houston rally past the Giants.

Houston came back from a 6-0 deficit to take three of four from the Giants, its first series win at San Francisco since a three-game sweep in September 2001.

Pinch-hitter Darin Erstad hit a tying, three-run homer in the eighth and Carlos Lee also homered in the inning off Tyler Walker, who faltered on his 32nd birthday. Berkman connected off Vinnie Chulk (0-2) for the first splash-hit homer by an Astro.

Phillies 5, Braves 0

At Philadelphia, Cole Hamels pitched his first career shut-out, Ryan Howard homered and the Phillies moved within a game of the NL East-leading Florida Marlins.

Pedro Feliz and Shane Victorino also homered and drove in two runs each for the Phillies, who lead the major leagues with 59 home runs. Florida has hit 58.

Hamels (5-3) gave up just four hits, struck out six and walked two in his first complete game of the season. Only two runners reached second base against Hamels, who has lasted at least seven innings in eight of his nine starts this season.

Perry survives wet day, shares AT&T Classic lead



D U - L U T H - G a . (A P) —

Kenny Perry sloshed through the water-logged fairways, ducking under an umbrella every chance he got. He also hit plenty of good shots on a miserable day at the TPC Sugarloaf.

Coming off a final-round meltdown at The Players Championship, Perry endured a steady—and occasionally driving rain—to claim a share of the first-round lead with a 6-under 66 at the AT&T Classic on Thursday.

The other leaders—Jonathan Kaye, Ryan Palmer, Jonathan Byrd and Parker McLachlin—all teed off in the morning, before a huge weather system engulfed the suburban Atlanta course.

They were the lucky ones.

Byrd was likely watching from his nice, dry hotel room by the time Perry rolled in a 14-

footer to save par at the treacherous ninth, his final hole.

"I don't like playing in the rain. I can't think of anybody who does," Byrd said. "It's just not a whole lot of fun. It's a lot of work."

Perry's bogey-free round was especially impressive in light of the soggy conditions and other hardships.

He had to remain on the course during a 31-minute delay when the rain turned so heavy that play had to be halted. Then, when he got to his last hole, surely looking forward to calling it a day, he found a backlog of five groups waiting to tee off—all of them held up by an earlier ruling on Glen Day that took nearly a half-hour to sort out.

"There's five groups here?"

Rich Beem asked incredulously when his threesome arrived.

"Yep, you're the fifth," replied Greg Norman, making

a rare appearance on the PGA Tour at the course he drew up.

"I guess it's your fault," Beem quipped. "You're the one who designed the place."

Perry drove his tee shot at 472-yard ninth into a huge puddle, forcing him to drop on drier ground. After hitting his second shot short and left of the green, he had to wait even longer while Dean Wilson got a ruling on a tee shot that faded into a deep ravine along the right side of the fairway.

Wilson wasn't out of trouble yet, hitting his next shot off a tree limb—the ball shooting straight across the fairway. At that point, Perry had already walked ahead to get a look at his ball.

He flubbed a chip off the mushy ground, slamming his club in disgust, but rolled in the putt to close his round with a better feeling. Then it was off to the clubhouse to get dry.

"I hit some good shots and

made some nice saves coming in," Perry said. "The last few holes were brutal."

It was quite a comeback from his previous round. Perry went to the final day of the Players one stroke off the lead, only to close with an 81 that dropped him into a tie for 15th.

"I was hitting knuckleballs off the driver," he said. "I have never seen balls do that. But I was able to recover."

The remaining leaders got to play on an inviting course before the showers struck. Byrd overcame a double bogey at No. 7 with eight birdies, taking advantage of soft greens and not even the hint of a breeze.

"I don't care how hard a course is—if the greens are soft, guys are going to shoot low," Byrd said. "You can get to the flags pretty easy. You know your shots don't have to be as precise because they're hitting and they're stopping."

Byrd and the others also took advantage of the weak field. Only six of the top 50 players in the world rankings are in Atlanta this week. Stewart Cink was the only top-15 player in the FedEx Cup standings to show up, and he lives in the neighborhood.

"When a lot of the top 20 or 30 guys in the world aren't here, yeah, it gives the other guys more of a chance," Byrd said. "But to win a tournament on the PGA Tour, you've have to play some great golf. I don't care who's in the field."

The 53-year-old Norman, who has largely given up tournament golf to focus on his various business interests and personal life (he's engaged to former tennis champion Chris Evert), played the familiar layout to warm up for some Champions Tour events this summer.

Even though he knows the course well, it didn't help. Norman shot an 80.

David Duval, the former No. 1-ranked player who's trying

to fight his way back from a seven-year slump, is likely to make it 9-for-9 - nine tournaments, nine missed cuts this year—after opening with a 78.

But both Norman and Duval had it better than Franklin Langham, who started out with a 13. Yep, a 13!

Langham, playing on a sponsor's exemption, hit his first four tee shots out of play to the left. He finally struck one sideways after taking a drop from the native brush, leaving him 340 yards from the pin while lying 9 on the par-5 hole.

Before the day was done, he had written down a triple bogey and three double bogeys, his score standing at 22 over when play was mercifully called with one hole to play.

Assuming he returns to finish his round Friday morning, Langham will post the highest score since the tournament moved to TPC Sugarloaf in 1997. A year ago, Michael Boyd opened with an 86. Langham has already taken 90 strokes.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	24	17	.585	—
Boston	24	19	.558	1
Baltimore	21	19	.525	2 1/2
Toronto	21	22	.488	4
New York	20	22	.476	4 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	22	19	.537	—
Chicago	20	20	.500	1 1/2
Minnesota	20	20	.500	1 1/2
Kansas City	19	21	.475	2 1/2
Detroit	16	25	.390	6

West Division

Los Angeles	24	19	.558	—
Oakland	23	19	.548	1/2
Texas	20	22	.476	3 1/2
Seattle	16	26	.381	7 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Florida	23	17	.575	—
Philadelphia	23	19	.548	1
New York	20	19	.513	2 1/2
Atlanta	20	20	.500	3
Washington	18	24	.429	6

Central Division

Chicago	25	16	.610	—
Houston	24	18	.571	1 1/2
St. Louis	24	19	.558	2
Milwaukee	20	21	.488	5
Pittsburgh	20	21	.488	5
Cincinnati	18	23	.439	7

West Division

Arizona	26	15	.634	—
Los Angeles	21	19	.525	4 1/2
San Francisco	17	25	.405	9 1/2
Colorado	15	26	.366	11
San Diego	15	27	.357	11 1/2

Yesterday's Games

L.A. Dodgers 7, Milwaukee 2
Washington 1, N.Y. Mets 0
Pittsburgh 11, St. Louis 5
Chicago Cubs 4, San Diego 0
Houston 8, San Francisco 7
Philadelphia 5, Atlanta 0
Florida at Cincinnati, ppd., weather
Arizona 8, Colorado 5
Cleveland 4, Oakland 2
Toronto 3, Minnesota 2, 11 innings
Kansas City 8, Detroit 4
Tampa Bay 5, N.Y. Yankees 2
Chicago White Sox 4, L.A. Angels 3

AT&T CLASSIC SCORES

DULUTH, Georgia (AP)—Scores from Thursday's first round of the \$5.5 million (€3.55 million) AT&T Classic being played on the 7,311-yard, par-72 TPC Sugarloaf course (play suspended due to darkness with 35 players not finishing. Round will be completed Friday morning):

FIRST ROUND

Jonathan Kaye	33-33	66
Ryan Palmer	32-34	66
Jonathan Byrd	35-31	66
Parker McLachlin	32-34	66
Kenny Perry	33-33	66
Charles Howell III	34-33	67
David Toms	34-33	67
Ted Purdy	33-34	67
Bob Sowards	33-34	67
Guy Boros	36-32	68
Camilo Villegas	35-33	68
Patrick Sheehan	35-33	68
Steve Flesch	34-34	68
Stewart Cink	35-33	68
John Mallinger	34-34	68
Jason Gore	34-34	68
Bob May	36-32	68
Bob Heintz	34-34	68
Craig Kanada	35-33	68
Tom Scherrer	35-34	69
Jeff Gove	33-36	69
Chris Kirk	32-37	69
Nick O'Hern	35-34	69
Zach Johnson	34-35	69
Heath Slocum	34-35	69
Bill Haas	35-34	69
John Huston	35-35	70
Brett Quigley	34-36	70
D.J. Trahan	35-35	70
Lee Janzen	34-36	70
Dustin Johnson	38-32	70
Scott McCarron	34-36	70
Stephen Leaney	35-35	70
Gabriel Hjertstedt	35-35	70
Chris Riley	35-35	70
Scott Dunlap	35-35	70
Rich Beem	36-34	70
Kevin Sutherland	35-35	70
Matt Kuchar	35-36	71
Esteban Toledo	37-34	71
Brian Gay	36-35	71
Troy Matteson	38-33	71
John Morse	36-35	71
Michael Allen	37-34	71
Marco Dawson	34-37	71
Brent Geiberger	37-34	71
Y.E. Yang	36-35	71
James Driscoll	36-35	71
Shane Bertsch	34-37	71
Ryuji Imada	38-33	71
Steve Elkington	35-36	71
Larry Mize	34-37	71
Michael Bradley	37-35	72

Jay Williamson	36-36	72
Brenden Pappas	36-36	72
Dan Forsman	37-35	72
Corey Pavin	35-37	72
J.J. Henry	37-35	72
Briny Baird	37-35	72
J.L. Lewis	36-36	72
Ian Leggatt	37-35	72
Chez Reavie	37-35	72
Todd Demsey	36-36	72
Kris Cox	37-35	72
Nick Flanagan	36-36	72
J.P. Hayes	35-37	72
Tag Ridings	37-35	72
Bob Tway	38-34	72
Tom Byrum	34-38	72
Eric Axley	38-34	72
Olin Browne	37-36	73
Kent Jones	37-36	73
Brandt Jobe	35-38	73
Carlos Franco	38-35	73
Brett Rumford	37-36	73
Paul Claxton	40-33	73
Justin Bolli	38-35	73
Ron Whittaker	35-38	73
Jon Mills	37-36	73
Chris Stroud	36-37	73
Richard S. Johnson	38-35	73
John Riegger	38-35	73
John Rollins	39-34	73
Retief Goosen	39-34	73
Joe Ogilvie	38-35	73
Dean Wilson	37-36	73
Paul Goydos	38-35	73
Lucas Glover	36-37	73
Paul Stankowski	37-36	73
Omar Uresti	37-37	74
Glen Day	40-34	74
Jeff Overton	39-35	74
Brad Elder	37-37	74
Robert Gamez	38-36	74
Spike McRoy	40-34	74
Roberto Castro	39-35	74
Doug LaBelle II	37-37	74
Notah Begay III	39-36	75
Garrett Willis	39-36	75
Willie Wood	38-37	75
Harrison Frazer	40-35	75
Neal Lancaster	36-39	75
Bubba Watson	39-36	75
Steve Allan	39-37	76
Cody Freeman	38-38	76
Jason Day	36-40	76
Skip Kendall	39-37	76
Steve Pate	40-37	77
Alex Cejka	40-37	77
Chad Collins	40-37	77
Kevin Stadler	38-39	77
Bob Burns	38-39	77
Jose Coceres	38-40	78
Mike Heinen	41-37	78
Roland Thatcher	44-34	78
David Duval	40-38	78
Nicholas Thompson	41-38	79
Greg Norman	42-38	80
Charles Warren	46-36	82
Jim Gallagher, Jr.	43-41	84
Ryan Armour	DQ	

Did Not Finish

Brian Davis	33
Marc Turnesa	37
Robert Damron	35
Martin Laird	37
Kevin Streelman	36
Brad Adamonis	39
Gavin Coles	38
David Lutterus	37
Reid Edstrom	37
Kelly Sellers	35
Travis Perkins	36
Jim McGovern	37
Mathias Gronberg	39
Andrew Buckle	38
Jason Dufner	37
Billy Andrade	37
Grant Waite	37
Len Mattiace	38
Mark Brooks	38
Ronnie Black	36
Scott Sterling	39
Scott Parel	39
Jin Park	37
Richard Johnson	35
Michael Letzig	39
Kenneth Ferrie	38
Jason Allred	39
Kyle Thompson	40
Jeff Hull	39
Dicky Pride	40
Tommy Gainey	42
Jimmy Walker	40
Luke List	40
Doug Dvorak	46
Franklin Langham	50

LEADERBOARD

	SCORE	THRU
Jonathan Kaye	-6	F
Ryan Palmer	-6	F
Jonathan Byrd	-6	F
Parker McLachlin	-6	F
Kenny Perry	-6	F
Charles Howell III	-5	F
David Toms	-5	F
Ted Purdy	-5	F
Bob Sowards	-5	F
Guy Boros	-4	F
Camilo Villegas	-4	F
Patrick Sheehan	-4	F
Steve Flesch	-4	F
Stewart Cink	-4	F
John Mallinger	-4	F
Jason Gore	-4	F
Bob May	-4	F
Bob Heintz	-4	F
Craig Kanada	-4	F

By The Associated Press

NMIFA sets tryouts for CNMI U14 National Team



The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association is currently holding tryouts for its 14-and-under team set to play a series of international matches in Guam in a couple of months.

The tryouts are held Mon-

days, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 4:30pm to 6pm and every Saturday from 8:30am to 10am at the San Antonio Elementary School.

The tryouts are open for both new and experienced football players. Candidates must have a current passport that doesn't expire in six months and must

not turn 15 years old for the rest of the year.

The CNMI U14 National Team will head to Guam to play seven international matches from July 4 to 11 in U.S. territory.

National coach Nick Swaim said the team will be selected at the end of the month and players making the team will travel

to Guam all-expenses paid to play the matches. All levels are welcome, with a good attitude and hard work ethic, according to Swaim.

If interested please contact Swaim at 235-0173 or show up to San Antonio Elem. School and introduce yourself. **(NMIFA)**

Barako overwhelm Dragons for lead



MANILA, Philippines—

The only time the Red Bull Barako's coach Yeng Guiao showed his disgust with one of his players came before the game when relief center Mark Andaya arrived during warm-ups and was promptly benched.

Otherwise, the entire Barako line-up contributed in whatever way possible for a strong start that led to a 109-88 annihilation of the Welcoat Dragons, which gave Red Bull the temporary lead in the elimination round of the Smart-Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) Fiesta Cup.

Not that Andaya would have mattered, even if he had made it to the Araneta Coliseum early. The sophomore center simply missed getting the minutes with so much garbage time the Barako opened up because of the rout.

The Barako showed their

preparedness against the Dragons, breaking out of the gates hard and never letting up on the way to erecting comfortable margins that settled the outcome early.

Red Bull improved to 7-2 in the first half of its eliminations stint, while the Dragons, who came into the game the winners of three of their last four games, dropped to 3-6.

Very happy

"We would have been very happy if we were above the middle of the pack," Guiao said. "My estimate is you need 12 wins to make the semifinals [outright], so we are pretty close to that and we are in a good place."

Warren Ibanez equaled his career-high of 14 points by hitting four three-pointers and a field goal in the first half alone, and Cyrus Baguio had 14 points in the opening quarter as the duo sparked the Barako breakaway.

The Barako just neutralized

everyone that got in their way, building a 59-37 lead at the break and an 82-49 bubble with 4:21 left in the third after a Jojo Duncil three-point play.

Mentally prepared

"Mentally, we were prepared to play Welcoat in a real tough, hard game," Guiao said. "They have beaten some of the tougher teams. Our mental focus for this game was great because we knew that team had the ability to beat us."

That ability was obviously not there after just one quarter.

Guiao actually did not find the need to field Baguio in during the third period and the import Adam Parada in the last 16 minutes of the contest, making do with an all-Filipino lineup which the Dragons, still, failed to overwhelm.

"Everyone was playing well and our confidence reached a high early in the game," the champion coach added. "We

GCA

From Page 28

our students," said coach Benjie Ganapin about the recognition.

The sportsmanship award was voted by the team coaches and the referees for good character and attitude of, not only players, but also coaches and fans.

So what was Ganapin's game plan that makes a winning sportsmanship combination?

"We always remind the kids that they should win against their internal enemies—negative things within them—not just against their opponents. In this league you battle your own

fear," said Ganapin. "Know and overcome your weaknesses, then have good character. That's the goal."

That's an aggressive game plan for Ganapin himself, who made his debut this season as the school's basketball coach. GCA senior Renato Batallones added that although his team didn't win first place, he's happy with their performance.

"It's a privilege to win the sportsmanship award," Batallones said. "I believe in the future we will be a better and stronger team. We will keep it up and encourage our teammates to strive for the best."

Ganapin also credited assis-

SINGLES

From Page 28

open/4.0; and 3.0/2.0.

Boys' and girls' 18-and-under top seeds Russell Buenaventura and Mayuko Arriola lead the cast of top junior netters in the same division. Buenaventura and Arriola earned the top seeding after garnering the most points in six events organized last year by the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Federation.

The well-traveled Ji Hoon Heo and Thea Minor are out to challenge Buenaventura and Arriola for the title. Heo and Minor were off-island for the most part

of 2007 by competing in International Tennis Federation-sponsored events.

James Camacho, Woo Suk Chang, Andy Nutting Joseph Jang, and Calvin Yang in the boys' division and Jodel Fernandez, Dina Jones, and Kisses Aquino in the girls' class are not to be taken lightly as they can also pull off some surprises. R.J. Aquino, Nathan Nutting, and Sung Hoon Ham, Thea's older sister Theecel, and Jennifer Uy are the other players in the boys' and girls' divisions.

Boys' 13-and-under top seed Christian Miller will be in for a tough time as he has to contend with 17 other players to maintain his hold of the title. Out to foil

Miller's bid are Jake Lee, Rafael Jones, Lucas Nutting, Clay McCullough-Stearns, Daniel Camacho, and Angelo Jones.

Other players in the division are Ji Hoon Choi, Chris Park, A.J. Jones, Joel Jang, Roy Lee, Kevin Yang, Dylan Ackerman, Quintin Ramsey, Bill Song, Sky Izuka, and Aaron Lee.

It will be an open race for the girls' 13-and-under division crown after perennial winner Theecel Minor was elevated to the 18-and-under class.

Gunning for the crown are second seed Amy Arenovski, third-ranked Neghar Rastguivy, No. 4 Ilia Corella, No. 5 Jeanne Bracken, No. 9 Adele Hudkins,

for our opponents, too."

The boys' team members are Aaron Miron, Abraham Sandig, Asher Sandig, Brandon Chargualaf, Dae Won Jeon, Ian Pascua, J.J. Lewis, James Sakamoto, Jimmy Phan, John Conti, Kevin DeLeon, Luther Taylor, Nathan Chargualaf, Peter Sablan, and Renato Batallones.

The girls' team members are Bethanie Batallones, Darleen Barcelon, Eleina Hofschneider, Jo Hannah Cabrera, Love Dela Rosa, Colleen Kinsella, Janet Phan, Antonette Labausa, Cyril Marasigan, Kristen Pangelinan, Kali Ann O'Connor, Riccki Pamintuan, Brooke Sablan, Marie Javier, and Lia Rangamar.

and unranked players Mikayla Lopez, and Kris Obaldo.

Chris Cajigan will try to strengthen his hold of the boys' 9-and-under crown in his final year in the division.

Second seed Colin Ramsey, No. 3 Raj Ramnani, fifth ranked Michael Jones, No. 9 Evzen Pabellon, and 10th ranked Carl Dela Cruz are raring to snatch the crown from Cajigan.

Other players in the division are Steven Goodwin, Morris Villanueva, Cole Chambers, Michael Ren, Jordan Butcher, Jayson Gamboa, and Luther Lizama.

Only Tammy Ackerman and Emily Jones signed up in the girls' 9-and-under division.

paired up with Malasarte to earn the title due to having the higher quotient among the five pairs that survived the single elimination round.

In the C class, the men's pair of

Effren Cacdac and Paul Navarro, and the women's team of Angie Ito and Ana Rose Omori won their division titles without losing a match sweeping the elimination round en route to the finals win.



Ginobili, Duncan help Spurs force Game 7

The San Antonio Spurs' Big Three came through. Now they have to win one on the road to keep their title defense alive.

26

Saipan Tribune Sports

Yankees slump into last place in AL East

The New York Yankees dropped into last place in the American League's East Division on Thursday as the surprising Tampa Bay Rays downed the Bronx Bombers 5-2.

25



28 SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

GCA: Character counts on the court

The heart of a champion lies in both an athlete's physical performance and their will to win. For Grace Christian Academy high school basketball players, being a winner has also meant having a positive attitude.

GCA boys and girls teams both garnered the coveted Sportsmanship Award during the recently concluded Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association High School Basketball League.

The league, which ran from April 1 to May 9, 2008, pitted players from Saipan International School, Mt. Carmel School, Marianas Baptist Academy, Calvary Christian Academy, and GCA.

GCA boys placed second in the competition, while the girls' team placed third. However, both teams take pride in their sportsmanship nod.

"The coalition has set that this is the true purpose of the league, winning the right character for

See GCA on Page 27



JON PEREZ

Players, coaches, and supporters of the Grace Christian Academy Eagles celebrate their runner-up and third place finish in the boys' and girls' division of the 2008 Coalition of Private School High School Basketball League last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. GCA also earned the Sportsmanship award.

Singles action in DFS tennis begins

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Action in the singles event began yesterday in the 27th Annual Duty Free Shop-Micronesian Tennis Tournament at the Pacific Islands Club and Amer-



ican Memorial Park courts.

The longest-running tennis tournament, which will be a three-day and two-weekend meet, will have singles com-

petitions in the boys' and girls' division in the following age groups: 9-and-under; 13-and-under; and 18-and-under. The doubles events are divided into the open; men's 4.0, 3.0, 40-and-up; women's; mixed

See SINGLES on Page 27

NMBF to fete badminton tourney winners

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Northern Mariana Islands Badminton Federation will hon-

or the winners of the recently concluded Inaugural Michelob Ultra Badminton Tournament today in a simple ceremony.

The banquet will be held at 6pm at the Chambre Bar at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Six pairs and one singles player in the seven divisions were crowned during the May 6 finals at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The inaugural tournament was supported in part by Michelob-MARPAC, At Your Service, SaipanCell, JET Holdings, PMIC, Serenity Salon, Elegance Café, NIC, Canton Restaurant, National Office Supply, Makeover Beauty Salon, Megavision, Venus Beauty Salon, Vargas Construction, Esolutions Inc., Philippine Consul General Wilfredo Maximo, and N.C. Matsumoto.

Leading the list of winners are Priyantha Wijayaguharatne, who won two titles in the men's A singles title and then teamed up with John Nguyen



SHIRLEY KIM

Women's B doubles champions Loyda Ito, left, and Babes Cielo celebrate their finals win against Marlene Peraja and Emily Vargas in last week's finals of the Inaugural Michelob Ultra Badminton Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

to win the doubles crown.

Joining them are Joseph Santos and Alvin Alvarez in the

men's B doubles while Babes Cielo and Loida Ito, who lost

See NMBF on Page 27

2008 Annual Regatta this weekend



The Over The Reef Yacht Club will stage its 33rd Annual Laguna Regatta this weekend in the Saipan Lagoon between Managaha Island and the Tanapag shoreline.

According to OTRYC commodore Ron Smith, this year's event will have six boats with 12 competitors, with Tony Stearns and Janet McCullough defending their long-standing possession of the brass bat.

Other teams taking part in this weekend's regatta are Lino Olopai and Sixto Igisomar, Smith and Ted Parker, Tyce and Angie Mister, Cecilio Rakulipi and crew, and Mike Johnson and crew.

The route of the 33rd Annual Laguna Regatta will be the standard two to three buoy course between Managaha and Tanapag.

"Come out to Managaha for a picnic on Saturday or watch from the Saipan shoreline in Garapan and see if Tony can hold off the entire field while simultaneously battling jetlag," said Smith. (OTRYC)

A crew of two in action during the 32nd Annual Laguna Regatta last year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

